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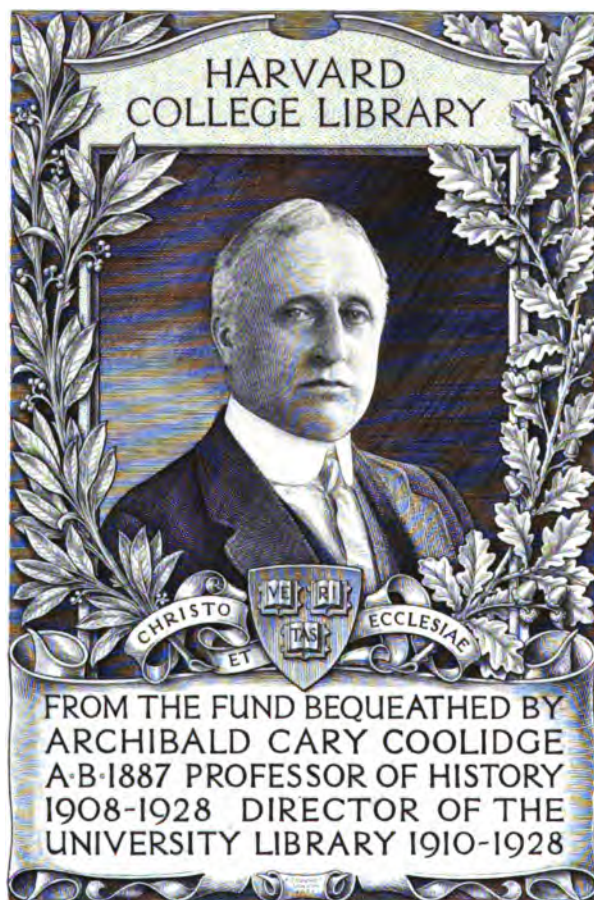
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Robert Howard
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thanks for attendance of
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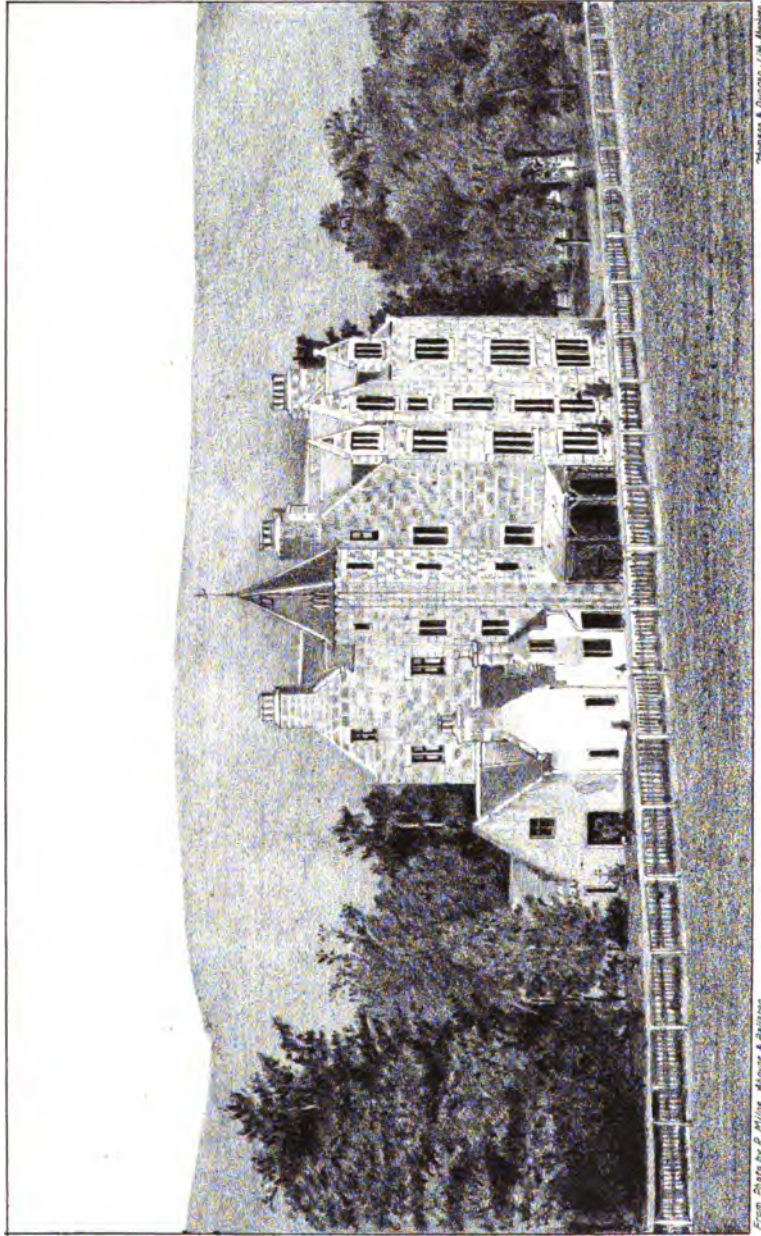
HISTORY OF LOGIE-COLDSTONE

AND

BRAES OF CROMAR

I. *What custom wills, in all things should we do 't!*
The dust on antique time would lie unswept.
Coriolanus, II. 3.

II. *Instructed by the antiquary times,*
He must, he is, he cannot but be wise.
Troilus and Cressida, II. 3.



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From Photo by R. Milne, Alpine & Son.

BLELACK HOUSE

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HISTORY
OF
LOGIE-COLDSTONE

AND
BRAES OF CROMAR

BY
REV. JOHN G. MICHIE
M.A., COR. MEM. S. A. SCOT.
AUTHOR OF "DEESIDE TALES," "HISTORY OF LOCH KINNORD," ETC.

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PREFACE.

When requested to undertake the compilation of a book for the benefit of a Bazaar to be held at Blelack in August of this year to provide funds for the erection of a Public Hall for the Parish of Logie-Coldstone and Braes of Cromar—a district in which, ever since I became School-master there (now nearly forty years ago), I have had the warmest interest—although I could not refuse, I felt the time at my disposal too limited to enable me to produce such a volume as I should have desired. I had therefore to content myself with such a work as is now presented, the materials for which were already to hand, or not far to seek. Nevertheless, I must have failed to have had it ready in time but for the kind and efficient assistance received from Mr. James M'Pherson Wattie, B.A., Lecturer, E.C. Training College, Aberdeen, in seeing the work through the press; and the obliging and prompt attention bestowed on its preparation by the Messrs. Wyllie & Son, and Mr. Thomson of the University Press.

J. G. M.

*Manse of Dinnet,
August, 1896.*

INTRODUCTORY NOTICE.

LOGIE-COLDSTONE.

THE district, a short account of the early history of which it is proposed to give in the following pages, is situated within the vale of CROMAR, locally bounded by its four hills—Morven on the west, Press n' dye on the north, Ledilick on the east, and Mulloch on the south. By these and their connecting ridges the vale is so isolated from the surrounding straths and valleys that at an early period it was recognised as possessing a community of interests peculiar to itself; and in some respects it continues to be so regarded to the present day. In these circumstances, although minor details have been generally confined to the parish of Logie-Coldstone and the district of the Braes, the more important events occurring anywhere within the said four hills could not be excluded from notice, and have received some attention.

NAMES.

The name of a district is obviously its earliest definition ; and, though subject to many variations and corruptions arising from change of language and other causes, it is always of interest, if ancient, as showing some striking feature in its topography, or commemorating some event in its history. In the district under consideration we have the names of two ancient parishes—Logie and Coldstone. In regard to the meaning of the former there is no difficulty.

LOGIE is a derivative of an old Gaelic word, *Lagan*, and means a stretch of low-lying land, generally beside a stream, having high ground on both sides—just such a strath as lies between Culblean and Knockargety, locally known as the Burnside of Logie. At first the name was applied only to this little district ; but after a long time the district became a parish which embraced a much larger area. Of this we shall have to speak afterwards. Meantime we observe that the name would be descriptive of a great many localities in Scotland. Accordingly we find no fewer than ten parishes called Logie, besides a great number of gentlemen's residences scattered over both Highlands and Lowlands. In order to prevent our Logie from being mistaken for any of the others, it came to be distinguished as Logie-in-Mar, shortened into Logie-Mar, just as Logie-in-Buchan

got shortened into Logie-Buchan. So much for the etymology of Logie.

COLDSTONE, though seemingly so plain, is much more difficult of explanation. Certainly it has nothing to do with a *cold stone*. It has been corrupted into its present spelling through several forms. Although Logy or Logie has always retained the same form, Coldstone has at different times been spelt in no fewer than five different ways—Collessen, Colcoyn, Codilstan, Colquholdstane, and the present. The reader will see that there is a great difference between the first and the last, more, we think, than between the old Gaelic name and the present form. An eminent antiquary, the late Mr. Jervise, states it thus: "The first of these spellings appears in the *Old Taxatio* of 1275 A.D., in which the kirk is rated at twelve merks; and the last of the old forms is in the *Register of Ministers*, etc., for 1574 A.D., when the Kirks of Coldstone, Coull, Kincardine O'Neil, and Banchory-Ternan were all under the superintendence of one minister. In 1402, when Isabella, Countess of Mar and the Garioch, gave the patronage and advocacy of the Kirk of Coldstone to the Monastery of Lindores, it is described as 'Codilstane in Cra Mar'; and, when it was added to the Chanonry of Old Machar in 1424, it is called 'Coldstane'. Coldstone and Coull may be said to form respectively the west and east corners of Cromar; and, as water is

much more abundant in the former district than in the latter, '*Collesen*' is probably the closest to the true etymology of the name, since the Gaelic compound *Cul-essan* means a corner or district which abounds in streams." Now, we think this is very near the truth; and you will also be of the same opinion, if you could picture to yourself what this north-west corner of Cromar really was like before the hand of man had ever put a drain in it; what was, till lately, the Bogs of Kinaldie, then a swampy loch with streams flowing into it from Groddie round all the hill-sides to Loanhead; the Burn of Migvie, then making its way first into a loch below the manse, and thence, with the outflow from Kinaldie loch, the Cunloch Burn, and other streams, falling into a large lake which extended from Mill of Newton to Milton of Whitehouse on the one hand, and round Tamcar on the other—if you could draw such a map of the district as this represents, you would say it richly deserved the name of *Cul-* or *Col-essan*, or the "watery corner". We would propose but a very little change on Mr. Jervise's derivation. We prefer *struan* to *essan*. Both mean streams; but *ess* means a stream with rapids or waterfalls in it, while *struan* is the common name for a stream of any kind.

COLDSTONE then, by interpretation, means "the corner of much water and many streams"; but when it became a parish it extended to other

corners, such as Watererne, Bogg, and Melgum, all well enough supplied with streams of water. The Gaelic names of both Logie and Coldstone are very old, probably dating back to about 1100 A.D.

PREHISTORIC REMAINS.

Those found within this district are principally the following: Hill forts, strongholds, circular foundations, crannogs, and eirde houses; and such implements as balls, spear and arrow heads.

HILL FORTS.—Of these there seem to have been three principal forts—on the summit of Morven, on the Hill of Mulloch, and at Hillhead of Glentanar, all within sight of each other. Probably they were also used, especially that on Morven, as watch towers, to signal the approach of an enemy from any quarter. The remains of other strongholds or entrenchments within the valley are discernible on Knockargety ("the treasure height") behind Ruthvan, and at the Blue Cairn on the hillside near Pitelachie. The Cairn-mores had each one; two were near Leys—one still waiting examination; there were several on the Moor of Dinnet, though some there and elsewhere have wholly disappeared. In short, every large round cairn may be fairly assumed to be the ruined remains of some old prehistoric fort or castle.

CIRCULAR FOUNDATIONS.—These are generally

found in clusters, and are the vestiges or larachs of hamlets, villages, or towns. They are of all sizes, from 100 feet to 5 or 6 feet in diameter, and quite circular in shape where the ground will permit of their taking that form. The smaller were the dwellings of the common people, and are most numerous around the big cairns, which were probably the strongholds of their chiefs, to whom they looked for protection when they were in trouble. They may be seen at Knocksoul, at Knockice, and especially at Kinnord.

CRANNOGS.—Besides castles on almost every hill and hillside, these primitive people built even islands in lakes and morasses, called by antiquaries crannogs, as the securest of all retreats. One of the best in Scotland is in Loch Kinnord.

EIRDE OR EARTH HOUSES are common in Cromar, and need not be particularly described. Good specimens may be seen at Culsh and Migvie, and more ruined ones at Crossfold. One was very recently discovered and skilfully excavated by Mr. George Gauld, on the farm of Milton of Whitehouse in the Braes. Numerous others have been found in ruins; and some, after being excavated and described, have been again filled up. They have so much attracted the attention of archæologists that we know the shape, size, and manner of construction of hundreds of them; the difficulty is to conceive what purpose they served.

It is now generally agreed that they were places of concealment of some sort; but whether for human beings or for their goods and chattels, or for both, it would be hard to say. One writer facetiously represents their use in this wise: that when a band of wild barbarians invaded the country the inhabitants betook themselves to these earth houses, like rabbits to their burrows during a hunt. This of course is a fanciful picture, and not quite true; but for safety and concealment of some sort they were evidently intended.

Such, then, being the dwellings of high and low in remote prehistoric times, we naturally ask what sort of implements or weapons they used. Many of these are found within the district—cups, bowls, and knives for domestic use, some very rude, others artistically finished; axes, called *celts* by antiquaries; hammers and wedges for cutting, splitting and shaping timber, some rough, some polished, but all of stone; spear and arrow heads of flint for hunting and war, some small, others large, some of the former barbed and beautifully shaped; round stones also for the same purpose, some plain, some with grooves round them, and some ornamented with figures and knobs, and of different sizes, from two to eight pounds in weight—these were the principal implements and weapons of the STONE AGE, the era of the eirde houses, crannogs, hill forts, and

other structures. The people did not wholly subsist on animal food, though most of the weapons found are those used in war and hunting. They had rude mills for grinding corn, at first merely a hollow scooped out of a gritty stone, with a round one for a pestle, till some ingenious person discovered the quern, a form of mill that has only lately gone out of use. And if they had corn to grind they must have had agriculture. Yes, and there remain traces of that, too, on the high grounds here and there, and even on the low hilltops. Some antiquaries have called the people who made and dwelt in these crannogs and eirde houses Troglodytes, some call them Picts, and some maintain that you may still see a few of their descendants in the Hebrides, where they go under the name of *Sgalag*, slaves, or stinking fellows.

EARLY HISTORICAL PERIOD.

Up to this time nearly all that we can learn from the remains left us is mere guesswork. We now come to matters of fact,—we do not say of truth altogether, for there are legends and traditions even in historical records that are only to be believed so far. The ecclesiastical history is always the earliest; for Churchmen were the first to know anything about letters and learning, and they, of course, concerned themselves first and chiefly with their own affairs, and these

were necessarily the conversion of the heathen Picts.

About the year 630 A.D., St. Nathalan, whose principal mission field was Tullich and the country round, had also a station at Coull; but he has left no trace in the west end of Cromar, so that we may pass him over, and come to the next missionary associated with the district.

ST. WALOCK, or, as his name is written in Latin, Volocus, has a pretty long record in the *Saints' Kalendar*. The following is the substance of what is written of him in the *Aberdeen Breviary*. The account assumes a certain coarse form of Christianity as existing amidst a barbarous people, among whom the worship of idols still obtained. The legend, from the style of the Latin, is of great antiquity. St. Walock is a foreigner. He leaves his native land and his parents. He inhabits a little house woven together with reeds and wattles. Even the day of his death is recorded. "More than 400 years after our Lord had suffered for us, while the Christian faith had not been received throughout all Scotia on account of the paucity of teachers, St. Volocus (Walock) the bishop, a distinguished confessor of Christ, is said to have flourished with remarkable miracles in the northern parts of that country, and to have chosen for himself a place of dwelling among the high rocks. He followed the example of our Lord as far as the

frailty of his nature allowed, voluntarily submitting himself to the greatest hunger, thirst, and cold, that in this life he might satisfy for his own sins and for those of others in his Church. For he preferred a poor little house, woven together with reeds and wattles, to a royal palace. In this he led a life of poverty and humility, on all sides shunning the dignities of the world that he might achieve to himself a higher reward in heaven, and for eternal guerdon receive a perpetual crown. But the race whom he preferred to convert to the faith of Christ, and whom actually by his preaching and exhortation he did convert, no one would hesitate to describe as fierce, untamed, void of decency of manners and virtue, and incapable of easily listening to the word of truth, whose conversation was rather that of the brutes that perish than of men. For they had neither altar nor temple, nor any oratory in which they might return thanks to their Creator, but, like brute beasts, were given to eating, sleeping, and gorging." This is a deplorable character given to the Pictish population of the days of our eirde houses, crannogs, and hill forts; but probably it is not very far from the truth. The legend proceeds: "Nor in the meantime, by the divine power, were wonderful miracles wanting in their presence; but, notwithstanding that these miracles belonged not to the human race, but were of God,

more than I can count were by the means of blessed Volocus converted to Christ. At length, in extreme old age, on the fourth day before the kalends of February, with angels standing around, his soul passed away to Christ ; and in his honour up to this time the parochial churches of Tumeth and Logy, in Mar, are dedicated." Bishop Forbes of Brechin, the editor of the *Breviary*, adds : " In the popular rhyme we have this commemoration :

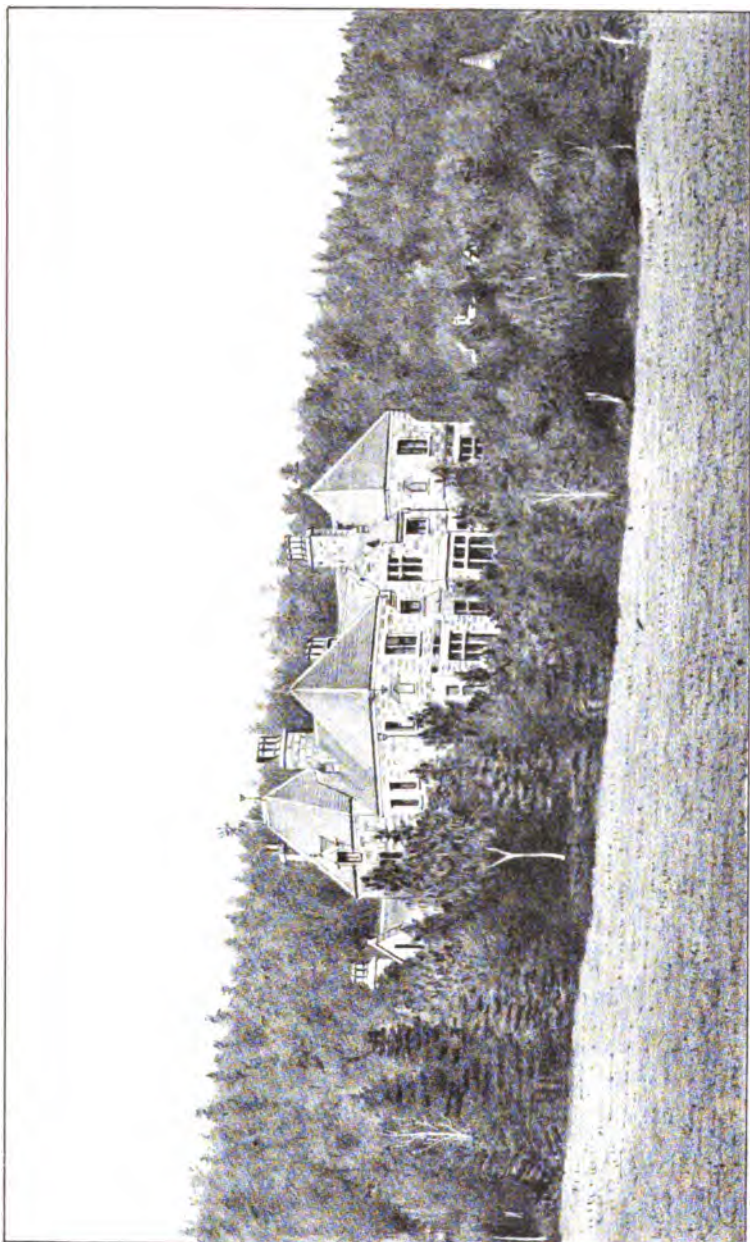
Walack-fair in Logie Mar
The thirtieth day o' Januar".

The old parish of Tumeth is now included in the parish of Glass. The Church historian, Camerarius, assigns his death to 733 A.D., and places his mission at Candida Casa (which is probably Braemar), as well as in Balveny, Strathdon, and Mar. " Two miles below Beldorny, in the parish of Glass, are St. Wallach's Baths, a ruined chapel called Wallach's Kirk, and St. Wallach's Well. The well till very lately was visited as a place of pilgrimage." This practice was only put a stop to by the Presbytery of Strathbogie.

The only monuments in Cromar that can with any degree of probability be referred to the age of St. Walock are the sculptured stones. One of these was found and for long stood on the north shore of Loch Kinnord, but is now removed to the policies of Aboyne Castle for safe preservation, and wisely so, seeing what a sad fate has overtaken some other relics of antiquity in the

Kinnord quarter. Another of the same age, or a little older, is the sculptured stone in the churchyard of Migvie. Both are figured in the *Sculptured Stones of Scotland*. There is also the rude unsculptured monolith beside the gate of the churchyard of Logie, still known as St. Walock's Stone, thus preserving the Saint's name in the traditions of the people. It was, however, never honoured with superstitious observances, as the well at Beldorny was, though St. Walock's Fair was observed as a high holiday till very lately. But that also is going out of fashion, if it has not already gone entirely.

It would, however, be a mistake to suppose that the heathen Picts, or Pichts (which latter form has a sinister look about it, being too like the Gaelic word for thieves), were so very ignorant of art as the *Breviary* describes them, and that they knew nothing about stone sculpture till they were taught it by the early Christian missionaries. Their skill in forming spear and arrow heads and polishing celts would go far to prove the contrary; and we have still better proof in the sculptured stones of pagan times, only one of which is known to be within the four hills of Cromar. It was found on the Tomchar Hillock, which means "the chair-mound" and is supposed to have been the site of the High Court of Justice. It was carefully preserved for some time by being built into a wall near the public



TILLYPRONIE HOUSE

road, where it might be readily examined, and is now within the policies of Tillypronie House, under the safe guardianship of Sir John F. Clark, Bart. It contains only pagan symbols; and, to judge from the clearness with which they are cut and the symmetry of the figures—whatever they may mean,—the art of sculpturing stone was far from being unknown to the Picts of that time. Nor were they altogether ignorant of letters, for they had a curious sort of alphabet, which we call “Ogham,” which they incised on stones. If they wrote on any other material it has perished. Stones were their books. After much study learned antiquaries have contrived in part to decipher the writing. At their head in this department is the Right Hon. the Earl of Southesk, K.T., LL.D., who thus expounds the writing on the Aboyne stone:—“(The body) of the son of Talore, Fineach of Aber-F(o)-tha, rests here”. This is the only Ogham stone known in the west of Aberdeenshire.

There is a remarkable sculptured stone, which may easily escape the attention of visitors, in the churchyard of Coldstone, and which is thus noticed by Mr. Jervise: “The churchyard of Coldstone is situated on the south side of a hill from which there is a good view of Cromar and the surrounding country. A granite stone, about 24 by 12 inches in size, roughly dressed on one side, presents a beautifully incised cross within

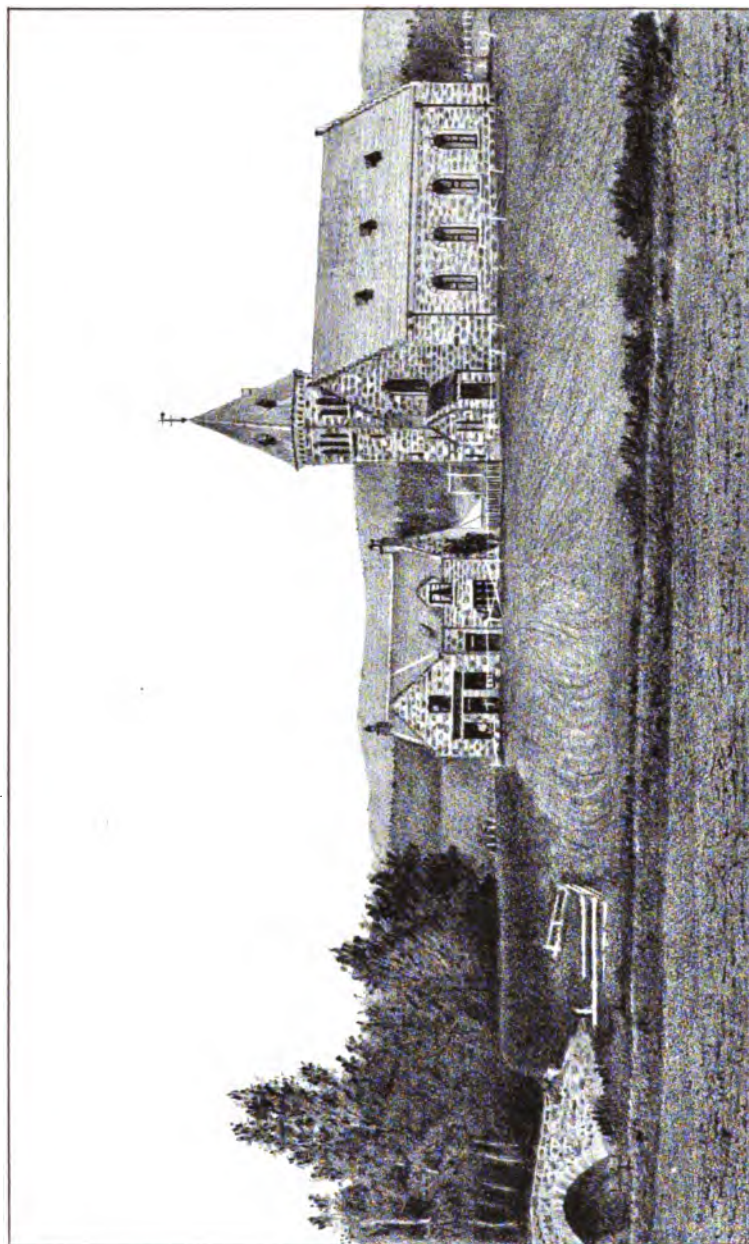
an oval. It is an object of considerable antiquity, and had probably marked the grave of an old ecclesiastic." Mr. Jervise was so impressed with the appearance of this stone that he made a drawing of it and had it inscribed on the cover of his volumes of *Epitaphs and Inscriptions*. While we are quoting from him we may give his measurements of the old church: "The site of the kirk, which can still be traced, is about 58 feet in length by about 30 in width, and has a chancel or burial aisle on the east of about 26 by 30 feet in size". One of our most learned antiquaries, the late Dr. Joseph Robertson, was of opinion that the stone belonged to the eighth or ninth century, or, in other words, is about a thousand years old. If it is of this great age, it might have been coeval with St. Walock, who died, as we have seen, in 733 A.D. But it is not likely that it had any intimate connection with him, for it is of the Iona or Culdee type; and, so far as we know, he did not belong to that fraternity.

We now come to the reign of Alexander III. (1239-1286 A.D.), a time of great prosperity in Scotland. The Norsemen had been conquered in the great battle of Largs (1263); the kingdom enjoyed peace within its borders; trade and agriculture flourished; the barons grew rich, and made such gifts to the Church that it grew rich also. It was then that the country was divided

into parishes, the extent and boundaries of which depended upon the lands belonging to the great lords and their vassals. Hence many of them have curious shapes and detached portions. Logie-Coldstone is not singular in this respect, though not so scattered as some of its neighbours. Besides parishes, there were in various parts of the country, mostly in towns and populous places, great ecclesiastical establishments—cathedrals, abbeys, monasteries, canonries, and such like. Very wealthy they were; kings and nobles made them great gifts of lands and tithes for the right of sepulture or burial within their consecrated ground, and for saying masses for the salvation of their souls. The manner of supplying ordinances in the churches was this:—Each parish had its own property in lands and tithes, the patronage of which belonged to the great lords of the district, who generally gave it in charge to one of these ecclesiastical establishments on condition of its being responsible for the supply of ordinances. This obligation could be easily performed, as there were always in such places a large number of unemployed priests and monks. Thus we find that about the year 1200 A.D. Gilchrist, the then Earl of Mar, gave the Church of Logie to the Priory of Monymusk, which he had himself recently founded and largely endowed with the benefices of other churches. But his successor, Duncan,

Earl of Mar, took it from that priory and gave it to Old Machar (1239-44), and provided that his body should be buried in that cathedral.

This Gilchrist, Earl of Mar, was one of the greatest men in the kingdom in the reign of William the Lion; and it would seem that it was in his time (1178-1211) that a long-standing dispute between the Earls of Mar and Allan Durward, another of the Scottish magnates, was brought to a peaceful conclusion, Durward getting the superiority of all the lands between the Dee and Don from the parish of Skene westward to the parish of Coull, where he built a great castle, the ruins of which may be seen to the present day; and Gilchrist, Earl of Mar, retaining possession of both Dee and Don Valleys from Bogie and Coull upwards. He had his principal residence at Kildrummy; but when Allan Durward built at Coull he built at Migvie. It is not known whether this was for friendship or for defiance, but the Earls of Mar ever afterwards took their tenants in Cromar bound to appear three times a year at a head court to be held (*apud lapidem de Migveth*) at the stone of Migvie. Much inquiry has been made as to what stone was meant and where it was situated. The eminent antiquary, the late Dr. John Stuart, did not think that the sculptured stone was meant; the writer is of a different opinion.



CHURCH-COLDSTONE

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GENERAL HISTORY.

We have now come to the period when parishes were attached to their respective churches, and the secular history properly begins. The churches were before the parishes, the origin of which was due to a desire to accommodate the people and prevent disputes about ecclesiastical rights and privileges. Thus a specified district was given to every church vicar or priest, beyond which his jurisdiction did not extend; and this district was called a parish. From the old charters we learn that there were five such parishes set apart in Cromar, *viz.*, Coull, Tarland, Migvie, Coldstone, and Logie.

To some extent at least the area of a parish depended on its valued rental, while the boundaries, as we have said, were mainly determined on proprietary considerations. For the purpose of ascertaining the valued rental, the king caused an estimate to be made, primarily for raising a tax, but also for such local objects as regulating parish areas. This measure or act is now known as "The old Taxatio". We give a few of the values of neighbouring parishes, mainly to show the curious spelling of some, and the change of name of others, as recorded in this very ancient document of date 1275 A.D. :—

Kyndrouchit (Braemar), valued at $3\frac{1}{2}$ merces.
 Creychyn (Crathie), " 7 "

Kynmuk (Glenmuick), valued at	12	merces.
Brass (Birse),	12	"
Migmarr (Midmar),	6	"
Clony (Cluny),	8½	"
Loychel (Leochel),	10	"
Cussheny (Cushnie),	9	"
Taruelun (Tarland),	13	"
Migveth (Migvie),	7	"
Kynbethoc (Towie),	12½	"
Inuernochtyn (Strathdon),	12	"
Cule (Coull),	9½	"
Colessen (Coldstone),	12	"
Logyn Rothuen (Logie),	14	"

In regard to the last, it has to be observed that Rothuen or Riven, the derivation of which is *Ruth-Ben* or fortified hill, was in early ages the most important place within the parish of Logie, which is nearly as often called Logie Ruthvan as Logie Mar; and indeed to the present day it gives its name, "The Dauch of Riven," to what was a very considerable portion of the ancient parish. It is also associated with the next historic event that occurred within Cromar—

THE BATTLE OF CULBLEAN (1335 A.D.).

This decisive action, which has been described at some length in the *History of Loch Kinnord*, took place on St. Andrew's Day (30th November), 1335. It may be said to have settled the war between England and Scotland for a generation. The opposite commanders on the occasion

were David Comyn, Earl of Athole, on the English side, and Sir Andrew Moray, the Regent, on the side of the Scots. Comyn, Earl Davy, as the historian Wynton calls him, marched from Athole with 3000 men to attack the Castle of Kildrummy and capture King Robert Bruce's sister, the wife of Sir Andrew Moray, who then held the castle with only a small force. Sir Andrew was himself in the south of Scotland at the time; but, hearing that his wife was besieged in Kildrummy, he made all haste to come to her relief. Earl Davy got word of it, withdrew his army from the siege, and tried to avoid the Regent by a rapid march by the Deskrie, over the Birk hill, through Coldstone, and on to Culblean, where darkness overtook him, and where he rested his soldiers for the night. Meantime Sir Andrew pushed on with forced marches, and reached the Ha' of Ruthvan a little before midnight. He could see the bivouac fires of the Athole men on the opposite slopes of Culblean just beside the path that leads over the hill. He lighted no fires himself, but refreshed his men—to the number of 800—in the big Ha', made a circuit round by Carew and Galton, and came on the enemy from behind in the grey of the morning before they were aware of his approach. The fighting was desperate for a short time, but the victory was complete. Earl Davy was slain fighting bravely after all hope was lost; but his

followers ran for their lives and hid themselves in the wood, so that many of them escaped, Culblean being then covered with oaks and birches from Cambus O'May to the Red Burn.

It is a long time before we again meet with the name of either Logie or Coldstone in connection with any event of public importance. The country was quiet. It was a great way from the English border, where raids and forays were still frequent; and the plundering caterans from the hills, though occasionally troublesome, did not keep the peaceable and industrious in much alarm. A hundred years later they became much more formidable. The state of society in such country parishes as Logie-Coldstone was feudal to the core. There was the great lord superior, who at that time (1434-1565) was a member of the royal family, the dignity and estates having been usurped by the Crown on the failure of a male heir, and bestowed first on a court favourite, and then assumed as a title belonging to the royal family. During this time, as may well be supposed, this royal personage did not often visit his north country estates. Next under him were the big lairds, who held their lands under charters granted by him, and bonds of man-rent, *i.e.*, obligations to give military service when required. They were pretty independent, however, and did very much as they pleased. Under them, again, were a set of bonnet lairds, who held their

properties under the same conditions. Their services were oftener required. In all tribe or district quarrels they took, and were ready to take, an active part. Under them, again, were the tacksmen, gentlemen farmers, who would not put a hand to any kind of work, but had servants to do it all. They held their farms and grazings under leases, but their military obligation was not to their own immediate landlord, but to his chief or superior. They paid rent to their landlord, but man-rent to their chief. Then, lastly, the tacksmen sublet a great part of their holdings to numerous crofters and cottars, who paid rent mostly in kind—service, grain, meal, hens, sheep, and oxen. Of money they had scarcely any, and had but little use for it. They were a quiet-living and industrious class. But there was another not so peaceably disposed. They had no fixed place of residence, but went about the country begging, poaching, and thieving. Sorners or masterful beggars they were called. Their hands were always in some mischief. If a raid or a midnight spulzie was on foot, they were the men. If an insult or injury was to be revenged, they were ready to be hired for that also; indeed, there was no deed of darkness or blood that some amongst them were not equal to the perpetration of. When they committed any robbery, or spulzie, as they called it, and were pursued, they fled to the hills, whither it was not

safe to follow them. The landed gentry and chiefs, too, often found employment for them; so that they were in some measure protected and patronised by those in high places. Further, to defend themselves from each other's invasions, chiefs not unfrequently entered into leagues or obligations, whereby they put themselves under the protection of some great lord whom they were not bound legally to obey. Those engagements were known as bonds of fidelity, and were very common under the Stuart kings. We give one of date 1490 A.D. as a specimen, retaining the original spelling:—

. "Be it kende till all men be thir present lettres, me Schir Jonhe Rutherfurd, of Tarlane, knight, to be bundyne and straitlie oblist and be the fatht of my body leley and treulie bindis and oblissis me to the stratast stile of obligation tile ane nobill & mychtie lorde, Alexander lorde Gordon, in leill, ayfalde, & trew manrent, homage, & seruice, for all the dayis of his lywe, that I salbe redy to ryde ande pass witht my saide lord at his warning in al his lesum and honest querelis ande gif him leill ande trew consall ande his consall ande prevaties consale conseil & abide & reman witht his lordschipe agannis quhatsumeuere, my allegiance to oure souerane lorde, & my seruice of law aucht to my forfeftouris alanerlie exceptit, because my said lorde is bundyn to defende me, and gif me ane

fee at his plesour, as in his bande maid to me tharapon mare fullely is conteinit. In witnes of the quhilkis, I haue affixit my sell to this present lettres at Aberdeen the VIII day of December, the yer of God M. four hundretht & nynty yeris."

It is to be observed that hardly one of the gentlemen giving these bonds could write his own name; and even the learned lawyer who drew out this one—and it is rather above the average—is scarcely to be complimented either on his orthography or his grammar. The great number of such documents which every baron's charter chest contains shows too painfully the insecurity of life and property in these old dark days.

In the year 1507, when James IV. was King of Scotland, a Sir Alexander Elphinstone, who was a great favourite with the king, obtained from him a gift of certain lands belonging to the Earldom of Mar in Cromar. The charter, which is in Latin, gives infeftment of the following properties:—Inuernochty, Bellebege, with its mill, field, and woods, and the *glennys* of Glennochty; Inuernechty, Ledmakey, Colquhony, Culquhary. These possessions were in Strathdon, the whole of which belonged to the Earl of Mar. To these were now added the following in Cromar:—Mekell Migvie, Easter Migvie, Tilliprany, Blelok, and Corrocrief. These are all names of places

easily distinguished to the present day. Along with these the charter conveys many old privileges, some of which are better disguised under their Latin names: the right to hold courts, and to carry armorial bearings—*bludewitis*, *merchetis mulierum*, *cum furca*, *fossa*, *sok*, *sak*, *tholl*, *theme*, *infangthief*, *outfangthieff*, *pitt* and *gallouss*. These were the usual rights and privileges of a baron; and so we find that these lands were to be conjoined in all time coming into a free and heritable barony, to be called the barony of *Invernochty*. We shall see how long it lasted. The charter is signed at Edinburgh, 8th August, 1507.

Another charter follows, adding to the barony seventeen more possessions, all, however, on *Donside*. Such was the favour in which *Elphinstone* was held by the king. These were the first lands he held in the north, and he does not seem to have been easily satisfied with getting. The second charter is signed at Edinburgh, 10th December, 1507. Another charter almost doubles the previous gifts. It bestows on this same Alexander *Elphinstone* and his wife, *Elizabeth Barklay*, large estates in the parishes of *Kildrummy* and *Auchindoir*, with the custody of the Castle of *Kildrummy*, for which, however, he had to pay the Crown a good round sum as rent; and the lands are neither raised into a new barony nor annexed to that of *Invernochty*.

Thus the old estates of the Earls of Mar were greatly dilapidated. Elphinstone's Cromar properties (the two Migvies, Tillypronie, Blelack and Corrachree) do not seem to have given him any trouble or to have received much attention. It was different with his last acquisition on Donside. John, Lord Forbes, had for many years held the bailliewick of these lands of Mar, and would not give it up; and so bad blood arose between the Elphinstones and Forbesees. The lands in Cromar were afterwards (1518) resigned by Lord Elphinstone, he receiving others on Donside in lieu of them.

"In the year 1520 the Church of Kildrummy, with the Church of Logy in Mar, was leased by the Dean and Chapter of Aberdeen for £94 13s. 4d., Cloveth (now a part of Kildrummie) being leased at the same time for £10."

A considerable portion of the lands in Cromar had for long belonged to various cadets of the House of Forbes. One of these, Alexander Forbes of Tollies (Towie), having died without male issue, his daughter, Margaret, disposed of such lands as pertained to her, namely, to John Coutts the lands of Ouchtircowlle, Taynlie, Straweltis, Tanamoyne, Stramor, with the mill and multuris of Ouchtircowlle, and also the village of Blakmyll, with its mill and multuris; and likewise Ouchtirarn, Tullocht, and Tannamoyne.

This disposition was confirmed by a charter granted by Queen Mary, 7th September, 1550. This John Coutts of Wester Coull, as it is now called, afterwards married this same Margaret Forbes, so it is to be supposed she knew what she was doing in granting him a charter of her lands. "Auchtercoul remained in the family of Coutts till 1729, when it was acquired at a judicial sale by William, second Earl of Aberdeen, for the sum of £65,937." Those who may wish to follow the chequered fortunes of the several branches of the family of Coutts may consult their *Genealogical Memoirs*, published by the Cottonian Society, London, 1879.

An event now (1549 A.D.) occurred that very intimately concerned the parish of Logie. "Glenbucket was of old a chapelry of the Church of Logy in Mar. It was erected into a parish in the year 1473 A.D. by Bishop Thomas Spens, with consent of the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral and of Sir Edward Makdowel, Vicar of Logy. The deed of erection recites the perils of storms and floods which beset the inhabitants in passing and repassing between Glenbucket and Logie through an uninhabited tract of hill and waste, where in one day at Easter five or six people perished on their way to the Church of Logy. The Church of Glenbucket was to be served by a resident parochial chaplain, who was to have the church land of Chapelstone with the great tithe

as well of Chapeltone as of the town of Balnaboth in Glenbucket and others, which belonged to Logy, but were leased by the Dean and Chapter of Aberdeen. He was also to have the altarages and other small emoluments, which also of old belonged to the Vicar of Logy; with twenty shillings Scots yearly from the Vicar of Logy in respect of his release from the cure of Glenbucket." This arrangement seems to have worked well till the year 1549, when the son of the chaplain, now dead, put in a claim for some of these lands as his personal property, to which the Vicar of Logy naturally objected. There was much disputing about it. In the first instance it was carried to the Bishop's Court, and from that to King James V.'s new Court of Session, and it was not settled till 1585, when the lords of the congregation—THE REFORMATION having in the meantime taken place—relieved both parties of all trouble about either tithes or land.

The year 1565 is memorable in the annals of the Earldom of Mar. As the greater part of the lands of Cromar and almost the whole of those in the parishes of Logie and Coldstone were of old subject to that earldom, and much of them held in personal property, it is necessary to take a brief retrospect of the fluctuations in the fortunes of that ancient family in order to understand their position and that of their vassals and tenants at the date at which we have arrived.

The male line of the old earls ended in 1377, when the estates and honours devolved on Margaret, the sister of the last earl. She married, William, first Earl of Douglas, who in her right became Earl of Mar. He fell at Otterburn, 1388. As there was no issue of this marriage, his sister, Isabella, became Countess of Mar. She married, first, Malcolm Drummond. He died, or rather was starved to death, in prison, by Alexander Stewart, son of the "Wolf of Badenoch," who next took the widowed countess prisoner in the Castle of Kildrummy, and forced her to marry himself. He then, as Earl of Mar in his wife's right, assumed the title and secured the revenues. At his death in 1435, the Crown claimed the earldom and lands, he being of the blood royal (the king's first cousin) and dying without legitimate issue. But the Crown had no right to it: it was a clear usurpation, the legal and rightful heir being Sir Robert Erskine, whose mother was directly descended from the old earls. He claimed it; but it was too good a thing for the Crown to let slip through its fingers, and he was denied his undoubted rights. The earldom remained as a Crown property administered by the Lords-lieutenant of the north, who were the Earls of Huntly. For two generations they were virtually Earls of Mar, though they could not assume the title, that belonging to the royal family, or being usurped by them. The immense

estates, from Coull on the Dee and Cloveth on the Don to the sources of these rivers, were as much under the control of the third and fourth Earls of Huntly as if they had been their own property. George, fourth earl, an ambitious man, made vigorous attempts to procure a royal charter conferring upon him the estates and honours of Mar, and was so stung with revenge when he discovered that both had been bestowed upon James Stewart, Queen Mary's natural brother, that he rose in rebellion, and was slain in the battle of Corrichie, 28th October, 1562. James Stewart, better known as the "Good Regent Moray," held the Earldom of Mar for only four years dating from the bestowal of the charter, or three dating from the battle of Corrichie. But during these three years he effected many changes on the estates, a few of which we have noticed. In the year 1565—that at which we have now arrived in our narrative—he induced his sister, the queen, to confer it on John, Lord Erskine, to whom it of right belonged, after his family had been deprived of it for 130 years.

After the restitution of the lands much had to be done in the way of count and reckoning for the intromissions with them during 130 years, and especially during the sixty years they had been under the management of the Earls of Huntly. The queen herself had intromitted with them. The following extract from an obligation

betwixt the new earl and the Abbot of Halierudhous will show the nature of some of these arrangements:—

“Be it kend till all men . . . me Johne Lord Erskine that forsamekill as it hes plesit the Quenis Majestie to gif and dispone to me heretablie the erldome of Mar and landis pertening thereto propirte and tenandrie as in the infestment maid thairapoun at mair lenth is contenit, Nochttheles I bindis and oblissis me and my airis that I nor my airis sall neuer clame nor pretend entres no heretable right to the landis of . . . and the landis of Logy and Dawane within the boundis of Mar whilkis hes been pairt of the said erldome of Mar disponit alreddy by the Quenis Maiesty to Robert commendator of Haliruidhous. And declaris that the samin is nocht sall nocht nor suld nocht be comprehendit under the said infestment maid to me. . . . In witnes heiroyf I have subscriyvit thir presentis with my own hand 27th June 1565 at Dunkeld.

“JOHNNE LORD ERSKYNE.”

So the lands of Logie and Dawan were made over to this Robert, Abbot of Holyrood. They were, however, not Church land; the renunciation makes them personal property. It is interesting to notice that this property, after having formed for long ages an integral portion of the estates belonging to the Earldom of Mar, has now (1565) been alienated from it and con-

stituted a separate property ; and that, after the lapse of three and a quarter centuries, during which it underwent many changes of fortune, it has again resumed the position assigned to it by Queen Mary, under Dr. Alexander Ogston, its present owner, with the appropriate name of Glen Davan.

The first General Assembly of the Protestant Church of Scotland was held at Edinburgh in December, 1560, and proceeded to appoint ministers, exhorters, or readers to the vacant parishes. The north was much neglected. Ministers could be got only for a very few, exhorters were hardly more numerous, and readers were generally appointed. A list has been preserved of date 1570, from which we extract the following, with their salaries:—

Coull, George Lauson, reader, £20.
 Aboyne, James Cusnye, reader, £20.
 Towie, David Arrot, reader, £20.
 Crathie, Rychart Christesoun, reader, £20.
 Tullich, Lorence Cowttis, reader, £20.
 Birse, { Archibald Irwyn, reader, £16.
 { Andro Hoige, reader, in his rowme.
 Glentanner, Johnn Ross, reader, £16.
 Glenmuick, Archibald Wilsoun, reader, £16.
 Coldstone, { Henry Spark, reader, £16.
 { David Stewart, reader, in his rowme, £20.
 Novr., 1570.
 Logiemar, Arthur Skene, reader, £16.
 Braemar, James Hanye, reader, £20.

Tarland, John Irwyn, reader, £20 (left the office in Novr., 1570).

Migvie, James Ross, reader, £20, since the said time.

Mr. Robert Skene, exhorter, £40.

In a fragment, of date about 1572, setting forth the value of churches "which were not annexed to the Cathedral, and so belonged not to the Chapter" of Old Machar, the value of the Vicarage of Logymar is set down at £5 4s. 4d.; whilst Caldstone, which did belong to that chapter, is rated at £4. The neighbouring vicarages entered in the roll as belonging to the cathedral are Kincardine O'Neil, valued at £5 4s. 4d., and Strathdon, at £6 13s. 4d.; and those not belonging to the cathedral are Coull, at £3 4s., and Aboyne, at the same sum. It is believed that this valuation was made at the Reformation in order to ascertain the value of Church property belonging to the great religious houses at that time.

In another estimate (used a little before the Reformation) it appears that of the thirty-two churches then reckoned in the Deanery of Mar, fifteen were situated within the bounds of what is now the Presbytery of Kincardine O'Neil; of these there are nine which are not assigned to any of the great ecclesiastical houses. The other six are—

Braemar, belonging to Monymust Priory.

Aboyne, " The Knights Templars.

Tullich, " " "

Tarland, belonging to St. Andrews.
Migvie, " "
Coull, " Aberbrothock Abbey.

These patronages, however, frequently changed hands. The Old Taxatio (1275) has already been referred to.

" For several years after the Reformation the ancient ecclesiastical division into dioceses seems in some instances to have been so far retained"; but in the year 1567 synods and presbyteries were constituted over the whole country, and before 1572 all the parishes were supplied with either ministers, exhorters, or readers, as already stated.

Thus the Reformation was accomplished.

POST-REFORMATION HISTORY.

We now come to some secular matters. The feud between the Gordons and the Forbeses, begun at the battle of Corrichie (1562), was continued with the utmost ferocity on both sides, the battle of Tillyangus, the burning of the Castle of Corgarff, when the lady of Forbes of Towie and her family perished in the flames, the two battles at Aberdeen, and the slaughter in the Church of Kearn being some of the consequences; nor did the havoc cease till the death, by the bursting of a blood-vessel, of the fiery ruling spirit in the strife, the famous Edom o' Gordon, which took place at Perth, 1580.

Cromar was less embroiled in these troubles than most other parts of the county, yet it did not altogether escape. We have seen that Arthur Forbes, better known as "Black Sir Arthur," had much land in Cromar besides what he had disposed of to Coutts of Auchterfoul. He was the prime leader of his party against the Gordons, being on the king's side, while they were queen's men, in the national struggle between Queen Mary and the party who sided with her son, King James VI. At the battle of Tillyangus (1571) Sir Arthur was slain, and, in virtue of an Act of Parliament passed in the same year to the effect "that the wiffis and bairns of all slain in our (the king's) service during the time of the late troubles should brook (retain possession of) their tacks, possessions, and lands for the space of five years," his lands thereby passed into the hands of his widow. But her title to share in this privilege was disputed so far as "Wester Migwie" and many other lands were concerned. The act is curious as showing the kind of compensation the Government offered for loss of life in its service.

Although John Erskine, Earl of Mar, had agreed not to claim the lands of Logie and Davan, he had not given up his rights to the teinds and patronage of the Church, for we find him giving a lease of these to the Master of Elphinstone, Lord Elphinstone's son and heir,

"for nynetene yeiris following the Feist of Beltane" (Whitsunday), 1581.

WITCH TRIALS.

We come next to a subject with which the heritors and elders of most parishes in the county had much to do—the trial of witches. Some parishes were more vexed with these creatures than others. Lumphanan seems to have been particularly infested with them. The king (James VI). had a great horror of them, and ordered the Church to prosecute them even to the death with all diligence. He granted commissions in favour of the provost and bailies of Aberdeen and the sheriff of the county for the purpose of holding courts for the trial of witches and sorcerers, and sent commissioners to every parish with orders to the minister and elders to examine all persons suspected of witchcraft, and to give up a dittay or accusation against them. "There can be no doubt that these unhappy wretches made use of the threats of which they were accused, and vaunted and even believed that they were possessed of power sufficient to carry them into effect; in fact, that they performed the 'cantrippis' and charms mentioned in the trials." In short, if they were not real witches, it was no fault of theirs. The commissioner who was sent to Logie and Coldstone by

the Earl of Huntly, who was the sheriff of the county, waited first, as in duty bound, on the Laird of Blelack, who replied in the following letter :—

“ MY LORD,—Efteir my humble commendatioun with seruice, forasmickle I haiff resauvit your lordship’s lettre for to bey ansuerable for ane woman off myne, callit Bessie Paull, quhilk I suld haif done one your lordships letter, quhidder I haid gottine ane charge be ane offiser of nocht, and with better will, becausse it is to your lordships justice. As to your lordships charge I gat fra your lordship, to assist your lordships officer, sic moyene as I culd do for the tyme I did, as he cane declair to your lordship, for the tyme was schort, and he culd nocht do mekill in that turnis, quhill he had spokin sum off thame that knew thair names. Nocht forder at this present to truble your lordship with forder letter, bot the eternall God be your lordships keiper. From Blelak, the secund day of Aprill, 1597 yeris.

“ Be your lordship, to be commandit with seruice,

“ JHONE GORDOUNE of Blelak.

“ To my were guid lord and maister, my
lord the Erll off Huntlye.”

In accordance with the message from Lord Huntly, Mr. Gordon of Blelack called a meeting of the heritors and others of the parish of Cold-

stone, which took place within the church, as the following minute shows:—

“ At the Kirk of Coldstone, the 10th of April 1597. In presence of Patrik Forbess off Pittallochie; Jhonne Forbess, in Mylne off Melgoun; Arthour Skene off Tulloche; Alexander Forbess in Dawanche; George Forbess in Melgoun; Alexander Forbess ther; William Forbess in Kinnaldie; Thomas Elmslie, in Litle Grodie; William Reid, in Coldstone; Jonne Tun, in Balymoir, all elderis off the parroche of Coldstone; the which day being charged by John Coutts, messenger at arms in our Sovereign Lords name, by a commission given and granted to the sheriffs, provost and baillies of Aberdeen to give up dittay (accusation) upon all suspected persons of witchcraft; for obedience whereof we have convened at the Kirk of Coldstone, and taken such trial as we find upon Katherine Ferusche's dittay, given up by the elders before named. *Item*, she being in James Lakies's house used the Devil's sorceries, the space of eight years bygone, a man, called Alexandr Welche, came into the house upon whom thou cast thy sorcery and he died. *Item*, likewise thy own son confessed, at his death in Aberdeen, that thou had promised him, by information of the Devil, that his blood should never be drawn, and this he confessed before he was hanged. *Item*, suchlike, thy son and thou

discorded, and thou said it should be his best day that ever he should live. *Item*, suchlike, thou cast upon Robert Fyiff's wife such devilrie, whereof thou was taken and holden two days bound by the same man, until thou took it off, and thou made her free therefrom. *Item*, suchlike, George Rychie being sick thou came to look at him, and promised to his mother to take off the sickness, and thou laid it on his sister, whereof she died thereafter. *Item*, when thou and the good wife of the Bogg being in the house of the Bog, thou delivered to her a tablet, making devilry and sorcery and told her to keep that tablet and hang it about her daughters' necks, aye, and until they were married. *Item*, then thou delivered to her a ring, and she has the same both together hanging yet. *Item*, then the said Elspet Forbess, good wife of Bogg, sent to William Forbess, Scheill, being six miles off, and bewitched his oxen, going in his plough, whereof there died three that year. *Item*, suchlike, Spaldairg confessed at her being put off (hanged) that she and Trachak received a hundred merk from the good wife of Bogg to make witchcraft, to cut away William Forbess's corn every year. *Item*, suchlike, the said Elspet Forbess of Bogg received a belt from Spaldairg, and the said Spaldairg told her, in case that belt wore away bearded men should greet, and there was a spirit in that belt that spoke and whosoever would put

it about them the Devil should take them. *Item*, suchlike, the said Elspet Forbess caused her own husband to bring sorcery out of Cloak (Glenmillan, in Lumphanan) between his shoulders, which was his own death, and the mark was red where it lay as long as he lived, and broke out continually and turned black till he died, 'and he cryit ay to straik it wi' reme for the birnin'."

Katherine Ferusche suffered at the stake at Aberdeen a few weeks after, as is recorded in the *Burgh Records*. Very few indeed were acquitted, but the following minute gives an example of one.

"MINUTE OF MEETING AT THE KIRK OF LOGIE-MAR. The 10th and 17th days of April, at the Kirk of Logie-Mar, 1597 years.

"The which day in the assembly of the elders within the said kirk with advice and concurrence of various other honest and capable persons, parishioners and others dwelling near the said parish. The names of the elders are Jhone Gordoun of Blelak; James Gordoun, in Broymhill; James Ross, in Logye; George Glas, in Ballnistrad; George Masoun, in Over Ruthvane; Villiam Cowtis and George Makcomye, in Nether Ruthvan; Jhone Blak, in Corrachrie; quha being convenit, with concurrence of James Gordoun of Pronny; Alexander Gordoun, in Kenmaris; Alexander Smith, in Ballnistrad; Donald Barrie,

Allan Cowttis, Auchan Glass, in Over Ruthvane; Villiam Gordoun, John and Alexander Makcomeis, Villiam Gillanderis and Villiam Vischart, in Nether Ruthvan; Jhone Turnour, in Carrow; Thome Mechell, in Vester Blelak; Robert Fyf, at the Miln thair; James Ross, Villiam Oig, and Duncan Fyf, and Robert Mill, in Corrachry.' The said elders and forenamed persons being also charged by John Coutts, messenger-at-arms, in our Sovereign Lord's name, by virtue of a commission obtained by him from the sheriff, provost, and baillies of Aberdeen, directed to the ministers and elders for trial, delation, and up-taking of dittay upon all persons reported on or suspected of witchcraft within the said parish in general, and in especial touching the trial, life, and conversation of Thomas Ego and Bessie Paull, in Graystane, and Beak Tawis, at the Burnsyd of Logy, who are already attached for the same crime of witchcraft. The said elders and others forenamed, being sworn the great oath to give up dittay faithful and true according to their knowledge, and being severally examined thereanent, depone by their conscience and oaths that neither of them knows any of the foresaid persons already accused, nor others within the said parish, criminal in any point of witchcraft, as far as they know. And in respect that none of the said elders could write, they have desired me to subscribe these presents and testimonials in their

names at the Kirk of Logiemar, day, year, and place foressaid.

"George Gordoun, redar at the kirk of Logymar, with my hand."

Sederunt certified by

"George Gordoun, reder at Logy, with my hand.

"Alexander Gordoun off the Carnmoir with my hand."

In the genealogy of the Farquharson family the several branches trace their origin from Finla Mor of Invercauld, who fell at the battle of Pinkie (1547). He was succeeded by five sons by his second wife, Beatrice Garden; his eldest, William or Robert, being heir. The other four all became heads of cadet families. The exact dates of the acquisition of their several properties in Cromar, mainly lying in the parish of Coldstone, we have not been able to ascertain. But in a curious document of *manrent*, of date 1586, Donald Robertson, heir of Strowan and chief of his numerous clan, grants a bond of fidelity and military service to "the nobil and mychty Earl of Huntly," signed at Elgin 6th day of March, "M.Vc. four scor and five yeirs, before thir witnesses, Jhon Gordoun of Petlurg, Thomas Gordoun, apparant heir of Cluney [the heads of the 'Jock and Tam' Gordons], George Farquharson in Descorye, and Master Frances Cheyne". This George was the fourth son of Finla Mor, and came into

the property of Deskry by marrying the heiress of it, — Forbes. This is the first mention we find of the Farquharson lands in the parish of Coldstone; and we know from other sources that Forbesees then possessed what were called the "Easter and Wester Baronies".

As showing the backward condition of the country in the beginning of the seventeenth century as regards postal arrangements, fords, and sanitary conditions, we quote an item of expenditure from the Burgh Records of Aberdeen: "To Douguid, poist, for careing letteris direct fra the towne to Monimusk, Petfoddellis, Drum, Leyis, and person (parson) of Kincardin, desyring thame to keip thair watteris and fuirdis, and that thair tenentis resett na personis cuming frome the Forthe, for feir of the pest. 1 lb." Dated 1603 A.D.

The parson of Kincardine was John Strath-auchine, or Strachan, a man of much consequence, being a leader in the Church Courts, a member of the Privy Council, and of the Court of High Commission. There were many Strachans in the Church at that time; one, a relative of the parson of Kincardine, was minister of Logie-Coldstone, and the first minister of the united parishes.

The union of the parishes took place in 1618 A.D., in consequence of the "paucity of the teinds". After the surrender of the Church lands

of Glenbucket, Logie was ill able to support a minister for itself, and was generally supplied by a reader. It was united to Coldstone by the Commissioners for the Plantation of Churches, 17th July, 1618, as above stated, and was afterwards known in public documents as LOGIE-COLDSTONE.

BOOK OF ANNUALRENTARIS.

We now come to a document which shows in a forcible manner the financial condition of the country. It is designated *The Book of the Annualrentaris of Aberdeen*, and was compiled under the provisions of an Act of the Convention of the Scottish Estates, held at Holyrood 28th July, 1630. "By this statute an extraordinary impost or tax was ordered to be levied on the twentieth part free of all annualrents—that is, of the interest of all 'moneys' lent on bond on obligation to repay—beginning at the Feast of Martinmas, 1630." In fact, it is the first instance we have of the imposition of an income tax.

We wonder how the business of the country was conducted without banks. There was indeed very little money in circulation; most affairs were managed by barter, and rents were in great part paid in kind. All the same, some men got passing rich, and that not in flocks and herds merely, but also in real cash. When a tenant had any money to spare, he went to the laird

with it; and received from him a bond, or promissory note, the interest on the amount standing good for part of his rent, sometimes for the whole of it. When a property was sold, if the purchaser could not pay the whole price he made over a part of the land to the seller till the price should be paid in full. This was called a *wadset*. A wadset was also often given as security for money due by the proprietor of land for cash lent him on any account. The lairds were really the bankers of the country, and these statements prove that they were credited with large amounts, from the great Marquis of Huntly downwards. From the declarations given in to the commissioners, so explicit are they, one could easily make out whether any particular laird or humbler person was or was not solvent. We give one as a sample, and we take the minister of Logie-Coldstone's account:—

Mr. James Strauchane, minister of Coldstone, declared that there was due to him:—

By David Barclay of Matheris . . .	2000	merkis.
„ Robert Paul, burges of Aberdeen . . .	600	„
„ Patrik Strauchane of Kinnadie . . .	500	„
„ William Forbes of Pittelachie . . .	100	„
„ George Gordon of Tullachowdie . . .	200	„
„ Mr. John Reid, minister of Tarlan . . .	200	„
„ James Gordon of Auchmull . . .	200	„
„ Mr. Johnne Strauchane, minister of Midmar	100 . I.	„
„ Mr. Alexander Gordon, minister of Glenmuik	100	„

By John Reid in Coldstaine . . .	100	merkis.
„ Mr. Alexander Strauchane, minister of Lumphanan . . .	200	„
„ Sir James Gordon of Lesmoir and Alexander Gordon of Abirgeldie . . .	1500	„
Sum of free moneys, 5800 merkis.		

I have selected the above out of 324 statements, as showing that the minister was not in debt—there was no claim against him—that he had some money to spare, that he was ready to help his neighbours when they were in need of a little cash, that his neighbouring ministers were often in need and were helped, and that the big lairds, Lesmoir and Abergeldie, did not disdain to borrow from him. Of such a good and comparatively wealthy man we might wish to learn something more. What further we know of him is also to his credit. After finishing his education (when he graduated A.M.) he became a Regent or Professor in King's College, Aberdeen; he was appointed to Coldstone in 1608, but could not leave his chair in the College till next year, and there is some reason to believe that he held the chair for even another year. He was still minister of Logie-Coldstone in 1633, so that it was in his time, and not in that of Rev. Robert Forbes (as is generally supposed), that the union of the parishes took place. He is referred to by Orem, Spalding, and Bishop Forbes of Corse. We have, however, no account stating when or where

he died. His successor was his debtor in 1633, Alexander Gordon, translated from Glenmuick 1647.

We may here give some account of his predecessors since the Reformation. Readers, as we have seen, conducted such service as there was from 1560 to 1573. In 1574 Mr. James Reid was translated from Banchory to Coldstone, and he had to take charge of Coull, Kincardine O'Neil, Banquhory-Trinitie, and Birse. Of course he had the assistance of readers in these parishes, but he paid his own reader in Coldstone out of his own pocket, although he had only "sax scor" lbs. (£10 stg.) of stipend and the Church lands or glebe. He demitted his parsonage and vicarage in Coldstone and removed to Birse in 1576. In his time there was a resident minister (the only one recorded) at Logie. This was Mr. Alexander Youngson, who had also under his charge Tarland, Migvie, Lumphanan, and Echt, his stipend being £6 6s. 1½d. stg.: such straits were they in for ministers, and so little was there to give them!

The Rev. James Reid's successor in Coldstone was the Rev. David Stratoun, of whom nothing more is known than that he had also Logie in charge, and continued till 1597.

After him came Rev. James Lesk, translated from Lonlay. He had also Crathie in charge, and continued till 1601, perhaps some years longer.

Next came Rev. James Strachan, of whom, as Spalding says, ye have heard before; and after him came Rev. Alexander Gordon, A.M., translated from Glenmuick, Glengairden, and Tullich, who was admitted prior to 14th December, 1647, and was in office in 1652.

Of those that followed we shall hear when we come to speak of the churchyard.

A few more extracts from the *Book of Annual-rentaris* may be given to show the rank of those that took money on loan. We have seen that Sir James Gordon of Lesmoir and Alexander Gordon of Abergeldie took a pretty heavy sum from the minister of Coldstone. These gentlemen, especially Sir James, were extensive borrowers, not because they were in need, for they were both rich as times went, but in order to make profit out of the money entrusted to them, just as a bank expects to make profit out of its deposits. It was the confidence which the public had in the honesty and means of these men that enabled them to borrow so largely. There were of course others who borrowed from necessity, but the sums lent them were generally small. "Thomas Gordon, at the Mill of Rippachy, declared that there was due him by Sir James Gordon of Lesmoir 1000 mks., and the same amount by John Leslie of Pitcapel."

Millers are frequent lenders. Theirs was then a paying trade. "William Cruickshank (a tenant)

declared that there was due to him by George Gordon of Newton 1000 mks." "James Irvine (farmer) in Dowaltie declared that he had up-lifted the 300 mks. that was due to him by JAMES GORDON OF BALMORAL, and that he had *warded* the said sum on his 'awin necessar affairis,' and had not lent it out again for annualrent."

This James Gordon was of the lairds Gordon, cadets of the Abergeldie family, who were proprietors of Balmoral before it was sold to the Farquharsons of Invereye.

"John Keith, son of Alexander Keith, portioner of Duffes, declared that there was due him by Alexander Gordon of Abergeldie 2000 mks., but that he was due to George Gordon of Tolfoudie 500 mks., and to Robert Farquharson of Finzeane 400 mks."

"Johne Cowtis (Coutts) in Culairlies (farmer) declared that there was due to him by William Forbes, heir of Corsinday, 200 mks.; by Sir George Johnstoun of that Ilk 500 mks.; by William Gordon of Abergeldie 1500 mks.; by Thomas Paip, burges of Aberdeen, 1200 mks."; and by other eight parties "the sum of 5300 mks."

A well-to-do farmer this Johne Coutts. Thomas Paip was a wealthy merchant and money-lender as well as borrower. William Gordon of Abergeldie was the laird's brother and successor.

"James Irving in Cullairlie declared that there

was due to him by Sir William Forbes of Cragyvar 600 mks.; by Alexander Gordon of Abirgeldie 300 mks., and by others "a sum of 500 mks."

"Janet Skein (widow) declared that there was due to her by William, Earl of Errell, 15,000 mks.; by John Turing (Turner?) of Foveren 10,000 mks.; by Patrik Guthrie, minister of Logie-Buchan, 1300 mks.—in all 26,300 mks." A rich widow this! But she was due "to William Coutts, younger, of Auchtercoull, 1200 mks.; and to Johnie Leyth of Harthill 400 mks."

We add a few examples of the money transactions of some persons of rank.

"James Forbes, laird of Haughton, declared that there was due to him by George Buchan of Saak 3000 mks.; by Sir William Forbes of Monymusk 1000 mks.; by Johnie Leslie, elder and younger of Petcappell, 1000 mks."—in all 5000 mks.; from which there is to be deducted 5000 mks. due by him to Mr. James Burnet of Craigmyln. "Summa free money NIHIL." Sir Alexander Irwing of Drum is in the same position: and so are Alexander Straquhan, laird of Glenkindy; the laird of Tillemorgan, the laird of Udny, and many others—quite penniless, if they are giving a true account of their affairs.

COVENANTER TIMES.

We now come to notice events which raised great national commotions, but which in High-

land or semi-Highland parishes, like those in Cromar, took a different form from that which agitated the country at large. It is amazing how little trouble—we might almost say how little interest—such parishes took in the great changes in the religion of the people consequent on the Reformation from Popery. There were no ecclesiastical tumults, no robbery of churches, no burning of cathedrals or monasteries. Many causes conduced to this. But the event gave occasion for the outbreak of deadly and widespread clan feuds that had been smouldering for years. In this part of the country it took the form of the Gordons against the Forbeses, queen's men against king's men. The mind of the common people never rose above or stretched beyond the clan feud. The Gordon-Forbes feud may be said to have ended with the death of Sir Adam Gordon (Edom o' Gordon) in 1580.

In the days of the COVENANTERS, at which our story has now arrived, the same thing occurred. In these parishes the question was, not who were for the National Covenant and who were against it, but who were for the Lowlands and who for the Highlands. Covenanters and anti-Covenanters were the designations used, but the common people and most of the lairds and chieftains knew little and cared less about the national question at issue—whether the king or the Parliament should be supreme—provided they

were allowed to fight out their own clan and private quarrels after their own fashion. In the Western Islands and Highlands the Covenanter struggle assumed the form of a conflict for supremacy between the Clan Campbell and a combination of most of the other clans. In the eastern division of the north it was at first (for so many times were sides changed that families were often not distinctive of party) also a contest for supremacy between the Gordons and their allies on the one hand, and the Crichtons, Forbeses, Frasers, Keiths, and their allies on the other.

Logie-Coldstone with most of Cromar, as a kind of border ground, suffered badly from all the belligerents. The old question of the ballad might here be asked: "O, wat ye how the ply began?" To answer this we have to go back a few years. The burning of the house of Fren-draucht, when the Viscount of Aboyne, the Marquis of Huntly's favourite son, perished in the flames, may be said to have been the spark that set the whole north-eastern counties in a blaze. The Gordons believed that this deed of horrid cruelty was perpetrated by the Crichtons. Sides were taken in the prosecution that followed. Marauders and broken men were set loose to pillage and plunder wherever they chose. Caterans from the hills came down in masterful bands and carried away everything. "Armed with swords,

bows, arrows, targets, hagbuts, pistols, and other Highland arms, they," as Spalding expresses it, "plundered the tenants of their hail goods, gear, insight plenishing, horse, nolt, sheep, corns, and cattle." The Crichtons and their friends, who were the worst sufferers, threw themselves into the arms of the Covenanters for protection; and of course the Gordons sought the assistance of the opposite faction, the anti-Covenanters, giving, as was alleged, protection and encouragement to the caterans. A band of the outlawed McGregors from Rannoch settled in Glenlivet and other Highland possessions of the Gordons, and laid the whole neighbouring Lowlands under *blackmail*.

This much it was necessary to premise in order to understand the position of parties at the outbreak of the conflict. But we shall in tracing it confine our narrative to such events as our parish, or at most Cromar and Upper Deeside, were specially connected with, merely indicating the movements in other parts.

In 1635 the Marquis of Huntly was summoned to Edinburgh to answer a charge laid against him of hounding on these McGregors and others. Though unwell he appeared, resting only one night at his house of Candycyle (Dee Castle) by the way, and attended only by a few friends and his page, a clever little fellow, John Gordon, otherwise called *Swankie*. His baillie, Donald

Farquharson, of Monaltrie and Tillygarra, had also been summoned to appear as "airt and pairt" with his master, under a penalty of a thousand pounds, but he fled. The marquis and others were imprisoned in Edinburgh Castle, but Donald Farquharson remained on Deeside to look after his affairs.

The leader of the McGregors was the notorious Gilderoy, who lurked a good deal about Culblean, and concealed himself often from pursuit in the Cave of the Vat. He and his followers raided on the lands of the Covenanters without mercy. Sir William Forbes of Corse and Craigievar, a prime Covenanter, suffered severely. But at his instance, in the month of February of the year 1636, before the season of spulzying had begun, eight of these McGregor "limmars" were caught, sent to Edinburgh, and hanged.

The marquis, being released from prison on account of ill-health, was carried in a litter on his way home as far as Dundee, where he died 25th June, 1636. He was the first marquis of the House of Gordon, and premier marquis of Scotland. He had fought with and beaten the great Argyle in the battle of Glenlivet, 4th October, 1594; had been exiled for a year or two; but returned and was made a marquis. At his death he was seventy-four years of age; "in his youth a prodigal spender; in his old age more wise and worldly".

Gilderoy, on hearing of the death of his men by hanging, went and burnt the houses of the Athole Stewarts, who had been instigated by Craigievar to apprehend them. He and his band ranged over and ravaged the whole country from Argyle to the Garioch, but this year saw the end of his career. "He and five other limmars were taken and had to Edinburgh, and all hanged upon the —— day of July." He had been a great scourge to Cromar; and, though it was now rid of him, he left a pack of his clan in the north that were well-nigh as daring and troublesome as himself. Spalding calls them Dugars—that is, the dark-haired, sharp-faced McGregors—to distinguish them from another race that were light-haired—Gilderoy, Rob Roy, and others.

Before a month had passed, undeterred by the fate of his kinsmen, perhaps in revenge for it, "upon the 8th day of August, John Dugar (there were at least two of that name) came with his companions to the Laird of Corse his bounds, and spulzied the ground; and spulzied Mr. Thomas Forbes, minister of Lochell's house, and oppressed the king's lieges wherever he came"—in Cromar and other places. "He would take their horse, kine, and oxen, and cause owners compensate and pay for their own gear. He gave himself out to be the King's man, and so might take and oppress the Covenanters at pleasure." At one time, during the holding of a

Bartle fair, he with his band swooped down upon the merchants and made them pay soundly. "He took out of the Laird of Corse's bounds a brave gentleman tenant there and carried him with him; and sent word to the laird, desiring him to send him a thousand pounds, whilk the Lords of the Council (the Parliament in Edinburgh) had granted to his (Forbes's) name for taking of Gilderoy, or then he would send his man's head to him." That the new marquis had a good deal of control over these banditti is evident from what followed. "The Laird of Corse rode shortly to Strathboggie and told the marquis, who quickly wrote to McGregor to send back Mr. George Forbes again, or then he would come himself for him; but he was obeyed, and Forbes came to Strathboggie haill and sound upon the 15th of August (where the Laird of Corse stayed till his return) without payment of any ransom, syne returned home. This Dugar was slain afterwards," and few were sorry. But there were other Dugars left behind, equally lawless and ferocious, and equally revengeful against the Laird of Corse.

Scarcely had another month passed when another John Dugar McGregor "and his accomplices took Alexander Forbes, alias Plagnie, out of his own house of Bogside, spoiled his goods, bound his hands, and took him sworn to pay a certain sum of money; syne left him at liberty.

He complained to the Marquis of Huntly, who made him free of his oath, for which he was ill requited when the war broke out. This John Dugar did great skaith to the name of Forbes in Cromar and Leochel and some others, abused their bounds and plundered their cattle, because they were the instruments of Gilderoy's death; and the Forbesees concluded to watch him coming and going, and get him if they might. This made him oppress the Forbesees more than all the rest of the country."

This state of matters could not be allowed to continue. The Estates sent an army north under Leslie and Montrose to quell the cateran and broken men and bring the marquis to terms with them. The leaders of the Covenanters at this time were Argyle and Montrose. The army came to Inverurie. Montrose and Huntly had a meeting, the result of which was that Huntly was carried prisoner to Edinburgh. Huntly thought Montrose had entrapped him, and never forgave him, though they were soon to be both fighting on the same side and in the same cause.

Donald Farquharson of Monaltrie, the marquis's baillie, when Huntly was in Aberdeen, on his way to Edinburgh, went there to see him and get his orders for the time he might be absent. It was arranged that Monaltrie should take a quantity of muskets, pikes, and other armour belonging to the marquis away with him

to the Highlands. This he was doing when Alexander Strachan, Laird of Glenkindie, a great Covenanter, came out against him, "and masterfully took them away from him, whereat the said Donald took great offence," and did not forget to pay him back when he got the opportunity.

While Montrose was lying with his army at Inverurie, there came twelve men to him from the Earl of Argyle to say that there were 500 Argyle men on their way to join him. Montrose sent the men back to thank Argyle, and gave orders to the 500 men to go and live on the lands of Pitfoddels and Drum. Accordingly they did so, a good many of them being billeted on Drum's tenants in Cromar. These Drum lands were afterwards acquired by the Earl of Aberdeen, and are still in part held by him.

"About this time (May, 1639) Donald Farquharson and some neighbours of Brae of Mar came down to the Mearns and plundered the Earl Marischall's lands in Strauchan, whereat the earl was highly offended," and little wonder, for war had not yet been declared; and, though Marischal was a Covenanter, there was no open strife between him and Huntly. Donald, perhaps, had some little account of his own to settle with the Strauchan tenants.

The first blood in the civil war was spilt at Turriff. It fell out in this wise. The Covenanters had resolved to hold a meeting there; and the

"barons"—that is, the anti-Covenanting lairds—determined to oppose them. Each party met in military array, with a considerable following. Shots were fired and a skirmish took place, in which some were killed on both sides. The Covenanters had the worst of it; and the barons being mounted pursued on horseback; hence the affair was called "The Trot of Turriff". It took place on the 14th May, 1639.

The barons, among whom was the Laird of Abergeldie, flushed with victory, rode to Aberdeen and carried their heads very high. They were there joined by Lord Lewis Gordon, the marquis's fourth son, who came down Deeside with some Highlandmen from Braemar, among whom was James Grant, the notorious outlaw and murderer, and his followers. They were about 500 in all, and on their way to Aberdeen took and spulzied the place of Durris, belonging to John Forbes of Leslie, a great Covenanter. There was little in the house in the shape of furniture or valuables; "but they got good beer and ale, and broke up the meal girnels and baked good bannocks on the fire, and drank merrily upon the laird's best drink, and took away as mickle victual as they could carry". This was a sample of spulzies generally; the depredators in this instance being the Farquharsons of Invereye and a few Gordons from the lands of Abergeldie. "Donald Farquharson, still smarting under the

affront put upon him by the Laird of Glenkindie, led this strong force from Durris across the country by Echt, Skene, and Monymusk, plundering the Covenanters' houses and lands all the way till they came to Glenkindie, which they utterly spoiled, but got not the laird at home."

This was brave work ; after which they joined the barons near Aberdeen, and the whole, about 600 horse and 1200 foot, marched up Deeside to Durris, intending to attack the Earl Marischal at Dunottar. The earl, however, did not wait for their coming, but marched out to meet them, having two brass field pieces in his train. Describing the Highland contingent, Gordon in his *Scots Affairs* says, "Aboyne, the late marquis's third son, who now took the command of the royalist army, was greatly blamed for taking such a man as James Grant by the hand. But (he adds) there was greater ground to speak against him by Aboyne's taking under his protection one John McGregor, a Rannoch man born (known by his Gaelic name of Johne Dow Geare) and a notorious robber; yet was he and his fellows, arrant thieves and cut-throats, taken into the party." These were the comrades of the Invereye men under Donald Farquharson, now styled Colonel. In the action which followed they behaved as might have been expected. Gordon (*Scots Affairs*), a great supporter of Huntly and a stout anti-Covenanter, does not

hesitate thus to write: "Some few shots did happen to light among these Highlanders, whereby two or three were either maimed or killed, which so frightened them, though they stood farthest off, that, without waiting any word of command, they ran off all in confusion, never looking behind them till they were got into a moss half a mile distant from the hill of Meager. Nor could they be withheld from running by any means or persuasion of such as Aboyne caused to ride up and down amongst them for to reclaim them, albeit all in vain." When afterwards upbraided for their cowardice, they said they had come to fight against men with swords and muskets, but not against men who had got "muskets' mither," the term they applied to the two pieces of cannon brought against them. Thus ended the "Raid of Cowie" in the total rout of the raiders.

Of the conduct of the Highlanders during their stay in Aberdeen Spalding gives the following brief account: "John Dugar, of whom you have heard before, with his lawless followers (about twenty-four in number), was in this company, and lodged in Old Aberdeen in George King's house; but he was shortly discharged as a runnagate limmar, bloodshedder, and murderer; and in whatsoever company he was the same could not well prosper, as was most evident.

"James Grant, sometime rebel, and now remitted, came in with his followers (about the

same number) and takes up his lodging on Donside in Patrick Leslie's house. Donald Farquharson and his Highlandmen (500 in number) also came to the town. Thir soul-less lowns plundered meat, drink, and sheep wherever they came; they oppressed the Oldtown, and brought in out of the country honest men's sheep, and sold at the Cross of Old Aberdeen to such as would buy a sheep upon foot for a groat (four-pence). The poor men that owned them followed in, and bought back their own sheep again; such as were left unslain (unsold?) were for their meat." Such were Donald Farquharson's men! Elsewhere the same painstaking and truthful annalist, though his political leanings were strongly in favour of Huntly and his party, states that his baillie's Highlandmen lived at free quarters and paid for nothing when they left, and Aberdeen was very thankful to be quit of them at any cost. It is really not certain that Donald Farquharson did not owe his death in Aberdeen, some years later, to the displeasure excited against his followers on this occasion.

Meetings of Covenanters, meetings of anti-Covenanters, and plunderings by both parties make up the record for the rest of this—the first—year of the civil war in the north.

So ends 1639.

In the month of March, 1640, the Earl of Southesk, Mr. James Fairlie, the Bishop of

Argyle, Sir Lewis Stuart, Advocate, Mr. James Farquharson, Writer to the Signet, were apprehended in Edinburgh on suspicion of being engaged in a plot to overturn the Government and restore the King to power. This James Farquharson was the brother of Donald of Monaltrie, and the founder of the family of Whitehouse in the Braes of Cromar, the last of whose male line was the late Andrew Farquharson of Whitehouse, in the parish of Tough.

Both parties, Covenanters and anti-Covenanters, as the summer advanced, were, as Spalding expresses it, "drawing to a head". The Covenanters of the south, hearing how their friends of the name of Forbes were oppressed by Highland limmars, broken men out of Lochaber, and the clan McGregor from Athole, Braemar and other parts, gave a commission to the Earl of Argyle to put them down and to punish them. For this purpose he raises an army of 5000 men, and marches towards Aberdeenshire, plundering the "Bonnie House o' Airley" on his way.

All the anti-Covenanters flee before him. The Lady Irvine fled from her castle of Drum and sought shelter among her tenants in Cromar, of whom she had many. The army took measures with the ministers; and all who would not sign the Covenant were deposed. But there was a vacancy at that time in the church of Logie-Coldstone, and so no minister in that parish to deal with.

The Royalists, that is the anti-Covenanters, were now rather the oppressed than the oppressors, and all of them who had been very forward in the cause had to look to their safety. Among others, Donald Farquharson and the young laird of Drum, being specially odious, had to take flight by sea into England. The Master of Forbes, Lord Forbes's eldest son, was much blamed for allowing them to escape; but he could not help himself. Nearly all the leading Royalists were now out of the country.

So ends the second year of this Covenanter war. Little was done in it but the holding of meetings everywhere to compel all classes of the people to sign the Covenant; while, on the other hand, the Highland limmars had a time of it quite to their own mind. The approach of Argyle changed this, and they had to consult their safety for a time. It was not long, however, till the freebooters began to show themselves again in their old ways. The Argyle men returned to their own country, and Leslie withdrew his army to the south; and, worse than all, the Master of Forbes's regiment, which had acted as a kind of police force or Black Watch, was disbanded. This gave the caterans their desired opportunity, and they were not slow to embrace it. They carried their depredations to such an extent that the authorities in Edinburgh "entered into an agreement with John Farquharson of

Invercauld, for a certain sum of money, to defend the Sherifffdoms of Angus, Mearns, Aberdeen and Banff (which were the counties in which they did most injury and oppression) for a year to come from all rief and spulzie; and what was taken by this robbers from them, he was obliged to repay the same to the complainer within the space forsaied". This was very much the same charge as had formerly been entrusted to the Master of Forbes, but Invercauld discharged it with more effect, for he kept the caterans more in check than they had been kept for several years before. It is to the period of his jurisdiction that the tradition of those numerous skirmishes with the freebooters of Lochaber for the recovery of stolen cattle is to be referred. Spalding says that "for executing this office the laird himself was appointed captain, and gathered together out of his own friends (his kinsmen and clansmen) and others about 250 men, and kept the said four shires both day and night so carefully that none suffered skaith, theft, or oppression, but lived in all peace and quietness". In this work, so dangerous, but so excellently performed, John of Invercauld was greatly assisted by his son Robert, a man of great learning, valour, and prudence, who, though he had then no property in Logie-Coldstone, soon afterwards acquired not a little, and was even then in possession of the considerable Lowland estate of

Wardhouse in the Garioch, so that he had much personal interest in restraining the caterans and broken men.

Spalding adds: "The Estates (the Covenantee Government), perceiving the quiet he had established, discharged him of his office, but gave him not good payment of what was promised at the making of the bargain, thinking that the country would be free of any more vexation. But the limmars, hearing of his discharge, brake out again under John Dugar to trouble and molest the country."

The above will give a good idea of the public condition of this part of the country during Covenantee times. Of the private or domestic life the following presents only too faithful a picture. The writer was a Roman Catholic priest of the J. S. order, and his views must therefore be taken with considerable modifications when they relate to the conduct or opinions of political parties. His name was GILBERT BLACKHAL, and he was now secretly wandering about the country visiting Roman Catholic families. In the discharge of this mission he was on his way from Strathbogie to Aboyne, when the adventure thus described occurred to him at the village of Rhynie: "Passing by Moor of Rhynie, I intended to give my horse a measure of oats there on my way to Cromar, because there was no place

after that hostelry where I could get oats to him; and I had eight miles to ride over the Cushnie Hills—as wild a piece of ground as is in all Britain. Coming to the gate of the hostelry, I did meet a carter driving out a cartful of horse dung to lay upon the land. I asked him if I could get there good oats for my horse. I had never been in that hostelry before that time, although I had gone by the same gate (way) above a hundred times. The unhappy rascal said, ‘Yes, sir, and good ale and beer also,’ but did not tell me that the house was full of men, as drunk as men could be.

“I entered the court, suspecting nothing; and, as I descended from my horse, a gentleman, called John Gordon, did embrace me very kindly. He was exceeding drunk. When I did see that, I was sorry that I had entered that house, but there was no remede. I could not retire then, neither with honour nor with decency; for I would have been taken for an enemy in these troublesome days, when every unknown man was suspected; therefore I thought it best to go forward with him, who heartily prayed me to enter the hall with him. I condescended, but would first put my horse in the stable; and, through good fortune for me, the door of the stable was low, so that I was forced to take off my valise from behind the saddle, which, being big and full, was higher

than the saddle, and could not enter the door. My valise being off, John Gordon called a servant to carry it into the hall, which I would not suffer, but would carry it in mine own hand, because there was in it a suite of my clothes, which being seen would have discovered me. How soon as I had given my horse straw to eat waiting for oats, John Gordon would have me go into the hall, which was full of soldiers, drunk as beasts; and their captain, William Gordon of Tillyangus, was little better. [It is to be noted that Blackhal's narrative is in the form of a letter to the daughter of that Lord Aboyne who was burnt in the House of Frendraucht.] This Tillyangus had been page to your father; and at this time whereof I speak had gotten a patent to list a company for the then holy but now cursed Covenant, and John Gordon was his lieutenant. They had both been of that company of light horsemen who spoiled the lands of Frendraucht; and had been ever banished since that raid till the troubles were begun—and then every covenanting man was more loyal than the King himself.

“John Gordon and I entered the hall, my valise in one hand and my hat in the other, to salute the company; and, as I was making my courtesie to them, the captain in a commanding way said, ‘Who are you, sir?’ which did presently heat

my blood, which was not yet to a good temperament after the death of your mother, but a matter of three weeks before. And as I thought he spoke disdainfully to me, I answered in that same tone, saying, 'That is a question, sir, to have been asked at my footman, if you had seen him coming in to you'. He said it was a civil demand, and I said it might pass for such to a valet, but not to a gentleman. He said it was civil, and I said it was not. John Gordon, seeing us both very hot, and ready to come to blows, taking me by the hand, said, 'Go with me, sir, to a chamber, and let this company alone, and we shall be by ourselves'. 'With all my heart, sir,' said I; for I did not desire to offend any man. So we went together; and, as I thought, we had been delivered from the importunity of the captain. He followed us to the chamber, and did sit down by my side; I made him welcome, and prayed him to drink with us, which he would not do, but said, 'I pray you, sir, tell me what you are'. And I answered him, saying, 'Sir, if you would have had but a little patience, until I had been set down among you, and my heart warmed with a cup as yours hath been, and then asked me through kindness who I was, I would, at the very first word, have told you; but you did begin in a disdainful way to question me, as if I had been some country fellow, and that manner

of proceeding did at the very first heat my blood, and obliged me to refuse your demand. And now I cannot, with my credit, accord unto you that which I immediately before refused; for you will think that you have forced me to it, and that not complaisance, but fear, hath made me give you satisfaction; and, therefore, I pray you for my honour's sake defer to another time the curiosity of knowing who I am, since I cannot with honour tell you now; and I am resolved not to do anything prejudicial to my honour, neither for fear of death nor hope of reward. But at the next meeting, whensoever it arrive, I shall freely tell you, for then I hope our party will not be so unequal as it is now; and therefore it will not then be ascribed to fear or baseness, as it would be undoubtedly now.'

"With this answer he went from us to his company, and, as we thought (that is Leicheston and I), if not contented, at least paid with reason. In this, meantyme, Leacheston did call for Finden hadocks (or fishes like whitins, but bigger and firmer); the mistres did give four to her servant to roste and bring to us. When they were rosted, the captain did take them from her and eat them with his souldiers. The servande came and told us that the captain would not suffer her to roste any for us, nor bring to us theis that she had rosted for us.

"Wherupon I said to the mistresse in great

anger, 'Goodwyf, I pray you give me some had-docks, and I will go into your hall and rost them, or some better thing for them, for I will not be so brauved by your captain: my moneyes are as good as his are; and, therfor, I wil have hadocks for my moneye or know wherfor not'. She said, 'You shall have, sir; but you shall not go in among them who are bent to kil you. I pray God deliver my housse from murther. I would give al I have in the world to have you saiffe out of my housse. I shall go and rost hadocks and bring them to you myself.' Which she did, and we did eat them and drink to the health of one another without any trouble, for our resolution was taken to selle our skines at the dearest rait that we could, if it behouved us to dye; for Licheston had alreadie sworne to dye or live with me."

After a good deal of quarrelling, the captain getting more and more angry, they came at last to blows, and some shots were fired, but no serious damage was done. By this time the wily priest had got over to his own side not a few of the party, and was almost a match for the captain and those who clave to him. Blackhal winds up the affair in this manner: "You may judge if I would not have bein a good pryse to theis soldiours of the unholy Covenant. . They would have bein better rewarded then for taking a priest nor for a lord, because thes rebelles

covered their treason with the cloak of religion. But my resolution was all the tym that I was in Scotland to defend myself as long as I could stand, and in myn own defence dye rather by the handes of gentlemen then of the hangman. But my day was not yet come to dye at that occasion; and God changed their hatred in love, for we became the greatest friends that could be, and made promise of brotherhoode one to another; and when I did go to my hors, the captain and the minister and al the soldiers embraced me, and the captain would nedes help me to tye my valise unto my saddle and hold my stirope, but I would not suffer him to do the last, although I could not get him hindered from the first, and I had much adoe to hinder him from the last. For when I did put my foote to the stirope, he reached his hand to the other to hold it, which obliged me to draw my foote bak again from the stirope two divers tymes, and at last I was forced to accept the service which one of his soldiers offered me, for to be delivered from the complimentary civilitie, shall I call it, or rather officiousness of the captain; and when I was mounted to my hors, I behouved tak every man by the hand again, and drink to the good health of the captain, the lieutenant, and al their soldiers."

Having got rid of his friends about five o'clock in the afternoon, he rode through the wild hills of Cushnie to the house of Robert

Coutts in Cromar, where he expected to find the daughter of the Lady of Aboyne, who was there lying ill of the smallpox. He thus continues his letter:—

“I stayed with you but the mater of seaven or eight houres, from two of the clock in the morning or after midnight (for it was that much when I arrived at your logis). I would not have spent the half of that tyme by the way, if I had had any light to see the way, or to know when I was out of the right way or in it, or wher I was: but the night was so dark that I could not have sein the head of my hors, if it had not been wheyt, until tenne. I had about me, in a box of silver, two consecrated hosties, and did communicat you in your bedde, and your woman in the chamber, and then did go to Robert Farquharson, the sojor in Belletrach, over Dye, and ther I stayed but one night; and my horse was stinged by an edder or serpent in the breast, lying in the stable in that hieland rounge. I, not knowing anything of his paine, did ryd away upon him; but, before I was three miles from thence, he could not put his further foote to the ground. I did make remove the shoe of that foote at the churche of Birs, to see what did hurt his foote. The smith did not discover anything, nather in his foote or legge, and therefore set on the shoe again; and so I did sometimes lead him and sometimes ryde upon him to Aberdeine, wher

the ministers were holding their General Assembly. The next day appeared upon his counter a lump as bigge as a ballone, the venime had so swelled his flesh. How soone I did know what it was, I did bathe it with warme water, in which I racted a little earth of malte, and cured him in two dayes, and advertised George Setoun of Carnebroggie to send for him and money to me for him, to wit, four score pounds, not the half that he was worth, but at such tymes removers must be losers."

"Upon the 23rd of March, 1641, the place (mansion) of Kandeckyle—now Dee Castle—pertaining to the Marquis of Huntly, by a sudden fire was recklessly burnt and destroyed, the haill plenishing destroyed and consumed, to his great skaith. However, Crowner (Major) Garden happened to be dwelling at this same time in this house, who was compelled to agree and pay the Marquis therefor."

The mansion of Kandeckyle was not rebuilt till long after, and then on a far less extensive scale. A portion of the walls of the old house still forms a part of the west gable of the present building. They were much thicker than those of its successor. The house afterwards went through several transformations. It was long used as a Roman Catholic chapel; the mission was afterwards transferred to Ballogie, and ultimately to Aboyne; but from that date till

very recently the lower flat remained uninhabited, and the upper, though occupied, was fast falling into decay. It is now, through the care of Sir William Brooks, Bart., of Glen Tana, converted into a comfortable and even elegant habitation, while the ground floor serves as a hall and library for the district of Inchmarnoch.

The year 1641 passed without any general disturbance of the peace in the north. Caterans and broken men still gave trouble in the following year, when the commission to Invercauld to keep them down was withdrawn; and throughout that year (1642) there was much bickering and some bloodshed in Cromar between Sir William Forbes of Craigievar and Farquharson of Invereye. The latter exacted *blackmail* from the tenants in Cromar even more rigorously than their landlords required their rents; and it was as punctually paid, and in many cases to even a greater amount. It was a reign of terror, in which Invereye was the ruling spirit. His property came to the very borders of Cromar, the lands of Tullich being his; and it was not safe to go there with any request for the restitution of stolen goods or gear; so that it became a proverbial saying of his when fears of pursuit were expressed: "Put Culblean between you and them, and let me see who will touch you". If any sturdy farmer refused to pay

his blackmail, and was strong enough to resist an open spulzie, he might, as the saying was, "look for the red cock to be crawan' on his barn riggan' any morning"—the caterans' expression for the crackling of flaming material. In this unhappy state passed the year 1642 in the parish of Logie-Coldstone.

Upon the 11th of May, 1643, the Justice-depute held a Court at Elgin, which the Marquis of Huntly and nearly all the great barons of the north attended. Their object was to take into consideration the unsettled state of the country, and to adopt measures for the suppression of the bands of robbers that molested and spoiled the peaceable and industrious inhabitants. Why Invercauld was not re-commissioned for this work does not appear. He had discharged his duty to very good purpose during the year he held office. Probably the country to be defended was considered to be too distant from his residence. It was to extend from Dunottar north to the Moray Firth. At any rate he was not appointed, and Cromar was left in the miserable position in which it was before. William M'Intosh, alias William M'Lauchlan, captain of the Clan Cattan, was appointed, with great powers of raising men, and a large salary; but he did little good in the north, and none at all in Aberdeenshire.

The great civil war now broke out in England,

and many of the Scotch anti-Covenanters flocked thither to assist the king. Donald Farquharson of Monaltrie, Huntly's baillie, with some others, shipped at Aberdeen, as if for France, eighty soldiers, who were destined, however, for the king in England. Some say Monaltrie went with them, and got into great favour with the king, Charles I.; but this is not certain. Tradition ascribes to him many brave deeds done in that country, on account of which he was called "the king's man". In his own country he was known as Donald Oig, that is, the younger, to distinguish him from his father, who was also a Donald.

The breaking out of the war in England was the signal for warlike preparations throughout the whole of Scotland. The General Assembly joined with the Convention of Estates (the Scottish Parliament) to issue ordinances to the several shires to levy taxes, raise soldiers, and purchase arms and ammunition. The commissioners appointed for this purpose were, of course, all Covenanters. For Aberdeenshire they were Robert Farquharson of Invercauld, Sir William Forbes of Craigievar, and some twelve others, Invercauld being convener; while on the other side were arrayed the Marquis of Huntly, the great body of the Gordons, and almost all the titled nobility of the county.

The marquis was summoned to appear before

the Estates to answer for his conduct, but refused to obey. But they had soon to deal with a greater genius than the marquis. The Earl of Montrose left the Covenanters and went over to the king, and soon set the whole country in a blaze. Huntly, who disliked Montrose, and had good reason, thought himself overlooked by the king, and went to Sutherlandshire to be out of the way. This action divided the Gordons, and many of them held back from taking part with Montrose; but all the broken men and outlaws—McGregors, Dugars, Roys, *et hoc genus omne*—joined his standard. Of course Invereye went to him, and that at an early stage; and the country of Cromar was for a time well rid of such neighbours.

Donald Farquharson, now returned from England—if ever he went there—also joined Montrose with the marquis's consent, and brought in a large body of men from Braemar and the Aboyne estates. They were mostly idle fellows that the country could easily spare. Montrose, now the leader of the royal army, took up his camp at Aberdeen, swept the county of the Covenanters, who went south for protection, and grievously ravaged their belongings. Parties of troops were sent out to burn and plunder, and sorn on their lands. Patrick Strachan, tenant of Kinaldie, a relative of the Laird of Glenkindie and of the minister of Coldstone, was fined

heavily for being a Covenanter ; and, because he would not, or could not, pay the fine, his goods were plundered and he himself taken prisoner. It was Sir John Gordon of Kelly (Haddo House) who had command of the party sent into Cromar. Sir John—an ancestor of the Earls of Aberdeen—carried poor Strachan prisoner to Haddo House, and from that he transported him to Towie Barclay, “where he fairly wan away”.

Spalding calls Patrick Strachan “a discreet gentleman,” and gives this account of his escape : “This Patrick Strachan (tenant of Kinaldie, in Coldstone) made quiet friendship amongst the soldiers, took the captain (prisoner), and kept the house (Towie Barclay) manfully till the army came ; and syne came bravely out, and gat his horse and arms again, which Haddo had plundered from him”. This was a bright exploit on the part of Kinaldie.

While Montrose was raising the Highlands for the king, the Gordons, with Donald Farquharson of Monaltrie as their colonel, were busy, along with the Braemar men, plundering the Covenanters in Aberdeenshire. Cromar did not escape their ravages ; but most of the lairds there were then on the king’s side, and, of course, their tenants escaped. The time, however, was coming when they in their turn were to be the sufferers. A great Covenanter army, with the Marquis of Argyle at the head of 800

Highlandmen from the west, advanced to Aberdeen. For months they were unopposed, and were billeted on the lands of the anti-Covenanters all over the county. A large body of the Campbell Highlandmen were sent into Cromar; others were quartered on the tenants of Aboyne, Strachan, Birse, Glenmuick, Glentanner, and Abergeldie. Spalding, who knew everything that was going on, says that they had an allowance ilk day to be taken off these lands of 24 bolls of meal, 120 wedders, and — marts, with 60 dollars of money. This was in the beginning of May, 1644; we shall hear more of their doings before they left, early in July. Bad as the times may now be for the farmers, there were worse days in these olden times.

This regiment of Argyle's men were called the *Cleansers*, and richly they deserved the name, "for they cleansed all from their coming, which was upon the (15th) day of May, till the 1st of July, when they departed, leaving only behind them a captain with eighty soldiers, who followed soon after. They spoilzied and plundered the haill Birse, Cromar, Glentanner, Glenmuick, with the house of Aboyne, and the house of Abergeldie, and left neither horse, sheep, nolt, ky, nor four-footed beast in all these brave countries, nor victuals, corn, goods, or gare that they might lay their hands upon." They were cleansers indeed.

It was not long, however, till fickle fortune

took the other side. The brief but brilliant career of Montrose drew to his Highland army all the cateran bands and broken men; and, while his operations were going on in a distant part of the country, Cromar had a respite from their depredations. After gaining the battle of Tippermuir, near Perth, Montrose marched north to Aberdeen, where he was joined by Donald Farquharson and his Highlanders, some of whom came from Cromar—a good many indeed; for the young laird of Drum, the largest landowner then in Cromar, with Coutts of Auchterfoul and others, were very active in the cause, and had many injuries to revenge.

Argyle followed north after Montrose, who was by this time on Speyside. Not caring to follow him further, he again sent his soldiers, both foot and horse, to quarter on the lands of Drum and Auchterfoul in Cromar, and the others where the Cleansers had been in the early summer. It was now a better part of the year for getting a great booty, being in the early days of October, when people were busy with their harvest. Young Drum, during the stay of the army of Montrose at Aberdeen, had come with a considerable body of horse to Cromar to punish the Covenanters there, and to recoup his own tenants at their expense for the losses they had sustained from the Cleansers; and he was not sparing in his exactions. But he had to make off when the

Covenanting army drew near; and, as Spalding says, "here were the Campbells again to begin where he left off". He adds: "They (the Argyle men) cutted down the pleasant garden planting to the huts, destroyed the corns, and left not a four-footed beast in the lands of Drum and Auchterfoul in Cromar".

The Covenanters also succeeded in making young Drum prisoner, and put him into the jail in Aberdeen, where, it is said, they would not allow his young wife to see him. He had only been married a few months, his wife being the Lady Mary Gordon, fourth daughter of the Marquis of Huntly. The rents of Drum and of all the anti-Covenanters on Deeside were uplifted and given to the supporters of the Covenant. Sir William Forbes of Craigievar got those of Drum and Auchterfoul, and Lord Fraser got those of Abergeldie, Donald Farquharson, and the Baron of Braickley. But Donald Farquharson's career was near its close.

Montrose, in the beginning of the year 1645, was now in Lochaber, where he was joined by the Farquharsons of Invereye and all the loose men on Deeside from Culblean upwards; but Monaltrie was not with them. He was attending to the interests of his master, the marquis, and his own, up and down the country. In discharge of this duty he had to come to Aberdeen after the Covenanters had withdrawn to the Mearns;

and, in company with some other officers and a troop of about eighty horsemen, expecting no danger, was holding rather a high time of it in the town. However, a Major Hurry, then in the service of the Covenanters—though he often changed sides, and was afterwards hanged—did hear of it, though he was then twenty miles south of Aberdeen, instantly got ready a troop of horse, and, galloping back, surprised the carousing party, who made but little resistance. Some three or four were slain, and among them Donald Farquharson of Monaltrie, baron-baillie to the Marquis of Huntly over his Highland estates, and in his day a man of the greatest power and influence among the loyalists. This event took place on Friday, the 25th of March, 1645. “Upon the morn, being Saturday, the said Donald Farquharson’s corps was found in the street stripped naked, for they tirmed from off his body a rich stand of apparel that he had only put on for the first time that day. Donald was buried in the Laird of Drum’s aisle with many woe hearts and doleful shots.” Many tributes were paid to his worth, and Montrose much mourned his loss. He was the hero of many a legend as *Domhnall Og Na H’Alba*; but in real history he appears eminent only as the faithful baillie of the powerful Marquis of Huntly. Last year (1895) there was placed in Drum’s aisle of St. Nicholas Church, Aberdeen, a brass plate to

his memory, with suitable inscription, by the last male representative of the family to which Donald Og Farquharson of Monaltrie belonged, the late Andrew Farquharson of Whitehouse—a name which originally belonged to his ancestral property in the Braes of Cromar, the first possessor of which was James Farquharson, brother of the commemorated hero, and the last, he who fell on the field of Culloden.

In the month of April following Montrose sent McDonald, one of his officers, with a body of soldiers into Cromar for maintenance, and to keep the Covenanters from plundering the lands of his friends. They lived there in free quarters till they were joined by the main body of the army, which, passing over the Capel Munth, crossed the Dee at Crathie, and thence marched into Cromar. Baillie, the Covenanters' general, had about the same time crossed the Grampians by the Cairnie Munth and was in Birse. Montrose hastily lifts from Cromar, marches first down the north road to Skene, and then north through Strathbogie to Morayshire. He had scarcely been two days gone from Cromar when in comes Baillie with his whole army, estimated at 2000 foot and 120 troopers, and encamps on the flat ground betwixt the kirks of Coull and Tairland, compelling the anti-Covenanters to supply them with food for man and beast; and here they remained from their incoming on Saturday the

10th to Monday the 19th of May, plundering the goods of their enemies. Baillie then lifts and goes north after Montrose.

Thus was poor Cromar within the space of one year seven times plundered—three times by the Covenanters and four times by their enemies. But the troubles of the poor tenants were not yet at an end. Montrose, after defeating Hurry at Aldearn, turned south, got past Baillie who was in Strathbogie, and again pitched his camp in Cromar. He did not, however, think himself safe here, and soon removed to Corgarff to wait the return of his Highlanders. When he was ready, he came down Donside, attacked Baillie at Alford, and totally defeated him. His Highlanders were off again of course to carry home the spoils won in battle, so he retreated again into Cromar; but it would appear that by this time the whole vale had been so cleansed that nothing was left to support his diminished army. "He therefore lifts his camp, crosses the Dee at Dinnet, out the Fir Munth, and to the south goes he."

Cromar now enjoyed for a short space a much needed respite from the ravages of opposing armies. It is not necessary for our purpose to follow the fortunes of the different actors in the great civil war. That belongs to the general history of the nation. Enough here to note that after five successive and brilliant victories in

pitched battles, besides skirmishes, Montrose was at last defeated at Philiphaugh (12th September, 1645), and never again was able to take the field. The Marquis of Huntly, the power of the Gordons being completely broken, was hunted down among the mountains, captured, sent a prisoner to Edinburgh, and beheaded by order of the Parliament, a fate that overtook the gallant Montrose about a year later, and Argyle also twelve years after. Indeed, all the great leaders on both sides perished on the scaffold.

To return to Cromar. For the purpose of utterly quelling the Gordons, who had risen in considerable bodies to avenge their losses, General David Leslie, the Covenantee commander, was in 1647 sent north with a sufficient force to put down any probable insurrection. He took up his quarters in two divisions. One of these was located for a time in Cromar, and was employed in demolishing the strongholds of the Gordons. The principal of these were the Castle of Strathbogie and the fortress on Loch Kinnord, both of which they utterly dismantled and wrecked. The other division took in the Bog o' Gicht (Gordon Castle), and captured the marquis where he was in hiding near Tommantoul. These things done, Leslie withdrew his army to the south; but, during the time the soldiers were operating against the fortress of Kinnord, they lived, as we shall see, very much at free quarters on the

Drum tenants in Cromar and other anti-Covenanters, though it would seem they paid for what they got or took from other tenants.

No sooner, however, had Leslie's soldiers taken their departure than a worse evil befel poor Cromar. The caterans and broken men, who for two or three years had taken up arms for Huntly and were engaged in regular warfare under Montrose, burning for revenge for the loss of their leaders and protectors, and hankering to return to their old trade of spulzie, burst from the hills upon the Lowlands, and in particular upon Cromar as the district which had harboured the regular Covenanting armies. To put a stop to their depredations, General Middleton was sent to the north with a party of soldiers, mostly troopers. And where could he go to be of any use but to the country that was being plundered? As we shall see, it does not appear that his troopers were very particular about paying their way, though they were very effective against the caterans.

On comparative peace being secured, a petition or rather two petitions were presented to the Scottish Parliament in order to obtain some compensation to the poor tenants for the losses they had sustained at the hands of the soldiers. Several acts were passed by the Parliament for this purpose. The one under which the Cromar petitions were presented was for consideration

of the losses sustained at the hands of the Government troops by inoffensive persons who had taken no part in the late troubles. Other acts provided compensation to other classes of sufferers; but with them we are not concerned.

The petitions for compensation under the provisions of the former act resulted in an order of the Estates to hold local courts for the trial of the validity of the claims put forward, and fortunately there has been preserved a report of the proceedings of these courts. Of course the Cleansers were in a manner Government soldiers; but, according to Spalding, were very rapacious, and by no means particular about the politics of those they plundered. These lists are in many respects very curious and interesting, as showing the sort of goods that attracted the greed of the West Highlanders, and the value put upon them at that date, 1647 A.D., or just about 250 years ago. The value is reckoned in Scotch money; but, considering the change in the commercial circumstances of the times, it may be held to be fairly represented by the sterling money of the present day.

The first court held was in respect of goods taken by the Cleansers, and is thus described:—

“A note of such gair as is plundered by the Argyle men out of the Laird of Drum’s lands of Cromar, given by the tenants, cottars and grassmen of the said lands, upon their great oath

sworn judicially in a fenced court holden in Tarland upon the 5th day of July, 1644, by Alexander Ross, in Miln of Coull, bailie of the said lands; James Fyffe, notar public, clark; Wm. Narne, officer; John Middleton, dempster, the court lawfully fenced and affirmed," etc.

Seven cases as samples are recorded. Four are those of farmers, two are of grassmen, and one is that of a poor widow. "Duncan Calder deponed (that over and above forty such loss as was ordained him to pay by the gentlemen of the country) that they had taken from him four mares worth £100; secondly, his oxen being taken from him by them and kept until he was forced to pay 9 merks for them; and thirdly, they took his cruick (the chain that suspended the cooking pots over the fire), and a barked hyde from him worth 8 merks; and lastly, they took himself and his wife and bound them like thieves, and took his whole goods with themselves bound, to their camp at Auchterfoul, until they forced him to pay 82 merks for his relief and the relief of his goods, although he was an old man of three score and ten years."

The above is a sample of the treatment meted out to the inoffensive tenants on the Drum estate in Cromar—and the lines were hard enough—by the Argyle men.

"The whole loss that the Laird of Drum's men of Cromar paid to the Argyle men extended to

1700 merks money, and 42 bolls of meal, which was given them, and duly paid for, over and above the unwritten plundering."

Merks seem even then to have been a current coin in Scotland ; and, being 6s. 8d. in value, are easily converted into the more common reckoning of £ s. d.

We now give an extract from the report of one of the courts held to consider the compensation to be given to tenants for the unpaid exactions of the men under General Leslie, when they were engaged in demolishing the fortress on Loch Kinnord in 1647.

" John Gordon, in Coull, deponed that thei had takin from him ane meir worth fourtie lib., and ane horsse quhilk cost him fyiftie-twa merkis, and sex vedders vorth sex dollaris, with other small things in his houss, worth aucht lib.

" And Vm. Ross, in Coull, deponed that thei had takin from him his haill scheip, and had to thair camp, and he was forced to pay fourtie merkis for them, and likevayss plundered his houss, and tuik sik as they could get, worth sex lib.

" And Patrick Vischart deponed that thei did take his ten oxin, and had to ther camp, and he payed nyne s. sterling for nyne of them, and the tent they slew, being worth twenty lib., and brak his doris, and abussed his houssis.

" And George M'Come, ane puir grassman,

deponed that thei did take his scheip, and ane meir, and had to ther camp, untill he was forced to pay twentie-sex merkis for them, and did take twa bands from him of twa hundred and ten merkis.

"And Robert Bruce, grassman, deponed that thei did take tway meirs from him, worth fourtie merkis.

"And Elspet Buchan deponed that thei did take hir horsse from hir and had to ther camp, until she did pay ten merkis for him, and ane garkin of lining, scho being bot ane puir widow."

"The haill loyce (loss) that the Laird of Drum his men of Cromar, peyed to the Argill men, extended to sewintein hundreth merkiss money, and fourtie tway bolls meill, quhilk was giffin them, and dulia peyed for, by and above the unwritten plundering."

At another court, held at Tarland, eight tenants of the Laird of Drum, in the parish of Coull, put in claims for compensations to the amount of £570 6s. 8d. At another held at the same place, and presided over by "Mr. Andro Gray, minister at Coull, Alexr. Ross, in Milne of Coull, Patrik Durvard, in Myll of Auchtercoull," the following cases from the parish of Logie-Coldstone came before the arbiters, the minute of which runs thus:—

"Ane roll of the losses susteined be the Laird Drum his tenentis in Cromar, be quartering and

urtherwayis, be Generall Majur Midiltoun his army in Maij and Junij last, 1647 yeris, giffin up in fensed Courtis upon thair oathis.

"In the first, Isabel Elphingstoun, relict of Umquhill Allan Og, in Leyis, deponed, be wertew of hir aith, that scho had takin from hir sex firlois bear to thir horsis, worth ten merkis the boll, half ane boll meill, at aucht merkis the boll, half ane boll of malt, at ten merkis the boll, ane young kow worth ten lib., thrie lambes worth four lib., mair in the said moneth of Junij, tway lambes pryss forsaid, thrie pekis meill pryss forsaid, thretein s. four d. for aill, thrie quarter of chesis, twente sex s. aucht d., mair plundered and takin from hir man, Alexr. Midiltoun, sex wedders at four lib. the peice.
Inde . . . 59 lib. 13s. 4d.

"Item, John M'Comy, in Ruthven, deponed that he had plundered and takin, from the tym forsaid, six firlois meill, ane firlois malt, and ane lamb, pryss forsaid, and twenty merkis for aill.
Inde . . . 12 lib. 6s. 8d.

"And George M'Comy, in Ruthven, deponed, that he had qwortered with him at the tym forsaid fywe hors and men four nicht, quhilk spent to him ane firlois malt, ane firlois meill, pryss forsaid, ane quarter of beiff, worth fywe lib., ane boll gryt ait is, aucht merkis, and had quartered to him fywe men, who spent to him tway pekis meill, pryss forsaid, ane merk for aill, and ane

merk for other vivers. Inde . . . 15 lib. 6s. 8d.

"And William Dukison deponed that he had quartered with him fywe men and hors four nicht, quhilk spent to him ane firloft malt, ane firloft meill, pryss forsaid, ane quarter beiff, worth four lib., ane merk for fisches, half ane boll aitis, four merkis, ane firlots beer, twey merkis and ane half, and to their futman ane uther nicht ane pek meill, ane quarter of cheis, pryss forsaid, and ane merk for aill. Inde, 14 lib. 12s.

"Suma . . . 101 lib. 18s. 8d."

"Ane Roll of the losses done to the Laird Drum his tenttis in Cromar be Generall Major Midiltoun's army, at ther being in Cromar the last of August till the 12 of Sepr., 1647.

"Imprimis, Georg Edward deponed that he had fywe horsemen during the spac of twelf dayis, who spent thrie bollis aitis, at aucht merkis the boll, sex firlots meill, aucht lib., half ane boll bear, fywe lib., ane dollar for twey nichts thei war in Braemar. Inde . . . 30 lib. 4s. 8d.

"And Alexr. Ross, ther, deponed that he gaiff them thrie bollis aitis, worth sixtein lib., himself being absent, and wis fre of forder quarter. Inde . . . 16 lib.

"And William Ross, ther, deponed that he had fywe men and hors during the said space, who spent thrie bollis aitis, at pryss forsaid, ane boll

meill, fywe merkiss for aill, twey wedderis, ten merkis. Inde . . . 32 lib.

"And Georg M'Comy deponed that he gaiff them during the said spac twa bollis aitis, thrie firlothes bear, half ane boll meill, ane firLOT malt, at pryss forsaid, ane merk for aill, forty twey s. for their quarteris when thei war in Bramar, ane quarter butter 20s., half ane stean of cheis 20s., twey merkis for beiff. Inde . . . 26 lib. 2s.

"And Isobell Elphinstoun deponed that scho gaiff them during the said spac four bollis quhyt aitis, ane boll meill, ane boll malt, pryss forsaid, and thrie dolloris for beiff and mutton to them. Inde, 41 lib. 2s. 8d.

"And Patrik Mill deponed, that thei spent to him during the said spac sewin pekis gryt aitis, ane firLOT meill, at pryss forsaid, and fywe merkis fur beiff, mutton, and aill. Inde . . . 7 lib.

"And William Dukison deponed, that thei spent to him during the said space ane firLOT meill, sewin pekis gryt aitis, at pryss forsaid, and fywe merkis for aill, beiff, and kitchin. Inde . . . 7 lib.

"And Beatrix Vischut deponed that thei spent to her during the said spac half ane boll gryt aitis, ane firLOT meill, and sex merkis and ane half for beiff, mutton, and aill, and twelff threiffis gryt aitis eittin be theiss that came to the [] esteemed at thrie bolls aitis, pryss forsaid. inde . . . 26 lib.

"Suma . . . 185 lib. 18s. 4d."

At another court, held at Tarland in October, 1647, seven of the leading tenants on the Drum estate in Coull put in claims for compensation. These claims are in several items very curious, but all show the oppression of the soldiers while lodging amongst them. As, however, they refer to the parish of Coull, it is not thought necessary to record them here in detail. Before these claims could be considered by the proper authorities, it was necessary that they should be certified by the local courts. Accordingly a meeting for this purpose was held at Tarland, from the finding of which the following is a quotation :—

“ We, Mr. Alexander Gordon, minister at Coldstan and Logie, and Mr. Andro Gray, minister of Coull, do testifie that the Laird Drum his tenants within the parochins of Coull, Tarlen, and Logie, hes susteinit gryt losses sen the tent of Merch, 1647, be frie quartering both of fut and hors, and be peyment of money and uther dewes to the captan of the watch and the garisons of Lochkeandor and Kildromi ; bot for ewerie ones particular loss we tuik thair oathis, quhilk particular losses ar set down in the former compt, except quhat thai haif peyed to the watch and the garison of the Loch at Auchtercoul, the fourtein of December, 1647.

“ Mr. AND. GRAY, Minister at Coull.

“ Mr. A. GORDON, Minister at Coldstan and Logie.”

"We, John Smith and John Coutts, elders, within the parochin of Logie, and William Reid in Newmill, and Alexr. Gordon of Kineraigie, elder, within the parochin of Tarlen, and Mr. Robert Coutts, and Alexr. Ross and John Durward, elder, of the parochin of Coull, do testifie be thir presentis that the forsaidis compts of quarterings susteined be the Laird of Drum his tenentis, within the said thrie parochis, is trew and off veritie, and thet everie particular person in the former compt haiff deponed ther oath of veritie at the upgiving of the samen. In witness quhereof, we haiff subscrivit ther presentis with our hands, at Tarlen, the fourtein day off Februarii, jai vic. and fourtie-aucht yeiris.

"JON. SMITH, elder, at Logie.

"JON. COULTIS, elder, at Logie.

"ALEXR. GORDON of Kineraigie, elder,
at Tarlen.

"MR. R. COULTIS, elder, at Coull.

"ALEXR. ROSS, elder, at Coull."

"We, Wm. Reid, in Newmilln, elder, in Tarlen, and John Durward, elder, in Coull, with our hands at the pen led be the nottar underwritten at our handis, because we cannot vreat ourselfis."

The Rev. Andrew Gray above referred to was a very busy man in his time, not to say somewhat meddlesome. In a case that was brought before the Synod, 20th October, 1622, he was

ordained "not to meddle with the exercise of any other minister his charge, as he will be answerable".

He was of little stature, as shown in his character, given in an epitaph said to have been written by the first Earl of Aboyne:—

. . . little Mr. Andrew Gray,
 Though void of wit, yet full of years.
 To point him forth requires some skill,
 He knew so little good or ill.
 He had a church without a roof,
 A conscience that was cannon-proof.
 He was Prelatic first, and then
 Became a Presbyterian;
 Episcopal once more he turned,
 And yet for neither would be burn'd.
 Of whom I have no more to say,
 But fifty years he preach'd and dy'd.

This practice of composing witty and satirical epitaphs continued for long to be a favourite amusement with clergymen at their presbyterial dinners. The then (1818) minister of Kildrummy was rather famous for his skill in these compositions. A co-presbyter had written a work on the history of Scotland, which had not been attended with much success. This was Mr. Lowe, minister of Keig, who had the misfortune to lose an arm through an accident in early life. This is how the minister of Kildrummy would have him immortalised:—

Beneath this stane within this knowe,
Lies single-handed Sandy Lowe;
He wrote a book nae ane could read,
And now the creater's wi' the dead.

A minister of Logie-Coldstone, nick-named "Red Rab," was still more severely handled. He bore a somewhat doubtful character, and was of an overbearing disposition. The two last lines of his epitaph ran thus:—

When at the last trump the dead shall rise,
Lie still, Red Rab, if ye be wise.

From the fall of Montrose and Huntly in 1647, nothing of any special moment occurred in Cromar to disturb its peace for several years. Much that had been done during the previous troubles had to be settled for, and there were many lawsuits between neighbouring proprietors; but Cromwell soon came in and with a high hand distributed justice, and kept the caterans effectually in order. People were settling down into the condition they had been in twenty years before, when an unexpected outbreak occurred, known by the name of the "Glencairn rising". Farquharson of Invereye, a professed *black-mailer* and oppressor of the Lowlands, was the means of bringing into Cromar this short-lived insurrection. He incited the Earl of Glencairn to come north, assuring him of great support in the district of Mar. For fully a month he went

through the country, forcing people everywhere at the point of the sword to join his band of caterans and "cut-throats" that under Glencairn were to drive Cromwell's soldiers out of the country, and put the king upon his throne. Deluded by this prospect, Glencairn did come north with a regiment of Perthshire Highlanders, and at Invereye's advice they took up their quarters in Cromar. Invereye had two reasons for sending them there: first, to save his own tenants in Tullich and Upper Deeside the expense of maintaining them; and, secondly, to punish the Cromar people, who had refused for two years bygone to pay him blackmail. We have not been able to ascertain the exact position of Glencairn's camp. It was somewhere in the west end of the district. There they abode for several weeks—one historian says five, but it was not so long as that, not quite four as we reckon, yet long enough to give the honest people a thorough hatred of their company. There was a small garrison of soldiers at Kildrummy, but too weak to assume the offensive; and Glencairn made no attempt to disturb them, although he was at this time about 2000 strong and daily receiving additions. General Morgan, one of Cromwell's officers, had a force of about the same number in Aberdeen, but he was supposed to be too distant to know what was going on in Cromar. Morgan, however, was not ignorant

of Invereye's movements ; and one early morning he briskly attacked Glencairn's outposts, which was the first intelligence they had of his approach. It was a case of " Hey, Johnnie Cope, are ye wakin' yet ? " and exactly similar to what took place nearly forty years later on the Haughs o' Cromdale. This fight could hardly be called a battle ; for Glencairn's force, though stronger numerically than Morgan's, were so taken by surprise that they at once took to flight. So meagre are the accounts we have of Glencairn's campaign, especially that portion of it that lay in Aberdeenshire, that it is difficult to determine the exact localities. All that is certain is that " he retreated with his army in some disorder through a long narrow glen into the forest of Abernethie on Speyside, pursued from morning to night by Morgan's victorious troops ". Although this is by no means the last time that bodies of armed soldiers passed through and were quartered in Cromar, it is, we believe, the last *battle*, in which firearms were used, that took place within its bounds, unless a brush with the gaugers in the smuggling days be counted—in which, however, the belligerents only came near to shedding blood.

Glencairn's raid into Aberdeenshire, which took place in the summer of 1653, in some respects resembled Dr. Jameson's invasion of the Transvaal ; for he came at the solicitation

of Invereye to help the outlanders there—who, however, did join him, though not in great numbers—and General Morgan played nearly the part of President Kruger and the Boers.

For the next seven years—that is, to the restoration of Charles II. in 1660—Cromar enjoyed profound peace, comparative prosperity, and entire immunity from the depredations of the caterans and broken men; and for some years after—so great was the influence of Charles, first Earl of Aboyne, with the Government and in the district—that, like a true magistrate, he was a terror to evil-doers. These evil-doers—caterans and broken men—were, however, not easily restrained. Invereye became headstrong and committed raids on Glenmuick and the Mearns. In one of these he killed the Baron of Braickley and drove away his cattle, for which murder he was tried in the High Court of Justiciary, but acquitted on the plea that the Baron's death was accidental and not intentional.

The next twenty years was a bad time for most of the lairds and the clergy, but a grand time for the lawless. The lairds who had taken the king's side during the twenty years of the civil war, and had been utterly ruined in purse and property, looked for compensation when the king was restored, and got only thanks for all they had done for him.

The Laird of Drum was one of the heaviest sufferers in this way; and, though he held on to his Cromar property for many years, it was under a heavy burden of debt, which ultimately compelled him to part with it: and there were many lairds in a like position. Nor were the Covenanter lairds any better off. Their day of prosperity—such as it was—came to an end with the Restoration, and now they found themselves heavily fined for the part they had taken against the king. They were, however, glad to get off with a fine, for many were imprisoned and some executed. The Forbeses generally suffered; and it was not long till Forbes of Kinaldie and Forbes of Daugh had to part with their fertile acres.

Then came the Revolution, but it came too late to be of much help to the old families. It indeed relieved the ministers who had been deposed because they would not become Episcopalians; but few of them lived through the hard times of the persecution to be again restored to their churches. None of the ministers in Cromar were actually evicted, but the stipends were diverted to other purposes than to their maintenance—for one thing the bishops' revenues had to be provided out of them.

The Jacobite rising under Viscount Dundee—or, as he was popularly known in the south of

Scotland, "the bloody Claverhouse," on account of his fierce persecution of the Covenanters—did not much affect Cromar. The scene of active hostilities between him and his opponent, General Mackay, lay along the Highland border in a circuit from Elgin to Killiecrankie in Perthshire, Dundee holding to the Highlands and organising the clans behind him, while Mackay was able only occasionally to disturb him by incursions up the glens. John Farquharson of Invereye—better known as the "Black Colonel"—the son of that Invereye, surnamed William Maol, or the "bald-headed," who had played such an active part under Glencairn, was, next to Evan Dhu Cameron of Lochiel, the most active and daring of Dundee's supporters. Mackay made several attempts to invade his stronghold in Braemar, but with little effect. Upper Deeside for a whole month became a kind of skirmishing ground, during which divisions of Mackay's army must have passed and re-passed through Cromar; but no written account of their marching and counter-marching remains. It is thought, however, that the large number of silver coins of the reign of Charles II., which have been picked up from time to time within the district, must be ascribed to the presence of Mackay's troops. The romantic stories told of that daring freebooter, the Black Colonel, do not all deserve credit; but he was certainly the

worst enemy as a blackmailer that Cromar ever had. .

Dundee's fall at Killiecrankie (27th June, 1689) did not altogether put a stop to the war, and there were wild doings within and on the borders of the Highlands for another year at least. The country was swarming with red-coats for the Government, and kilted caterans and ragged Irishmen for the Jacobites. Virtually, however, the war was closed one misty May morning (1st May, 1690) "upon the Haughs o' Cromdale," where a troop of horse utterly routed the main body of the Highlanders, who fled to the hills and were not found in arms again in any formidable body for the next twenty-five years. A ballad was composed, and much sung at the evening firesides in Cromar a generation or two ago, on the action at Cromdale, beginning :—

As I came in by Auchindoun,
A little wee bit frae the toun,
When to the Highlands I was boun'
To view the Haughs o' Cromdale,
I met a man in tartan trews ;
I spierd at him what was the news :
Quoth he, "The Highland army rues
That e'er they came to Cromdale," etc.

There was also a strathspey, still popular, composed to older words than these, the refrain of which was :—

Oh, wat ye how the ply began,
Oh, ken ye how the ply began,
Oh, wat ye how the ply began
Upo' the Haughs o' Cromdale?

For the next six years (1690-1696) no event of note is recorded as taking place in the district. The estate of Invereye had got a new laird of a more peaceful character, and his Tullich and other tenants took after him.

We now come to consider a highly instructive document.

The Poll Book of Aberdeenshire has been printed from a manuscript which belonged to General Gordon of Cairness. The tax to which it refers was intended to pay the arrears due to the country and army. The roll was made up in 1695, and the tax was made payable at Martinmas of the same year; but, it is believed, was never exacted. It is the most complete of any roll of the kind previous to the modern valuation rolls, and contains information of a varied, curious, and interesting character. From it we cull the following particulars. The section referring to Logie-Coldstone is described as follows:—

“Ane List of the Polable Persons within the Pariochin of Logiemar and Coldstone, given up by the Laird of Invercauld and Peter Dugid of Logiemar, two Commissioners, for that effect nominat and appointed, and be John Kelt in Knocksoul, within the Pariochin of Coldstone,

Clerk and Collector appoynted be them for the said Pariochin ”.

As the two old parishes of Logie and Coldstone are taken separately, we are enabled to discover approximately what were the boundaries of each—a point which, though of little interest now, was long held to be of considerable importance. It also determines for us the values of the different properties, gives the names of the farms on each and of the tenants who occupied them, as well as their sub-tenants and other dependants, just 200 years ago.

The Laird of Invercauld was the greatest heritor in the said parish of Coldstone, his valuation being £1250. The following farms are enumerated on his estate :—

KINALDIE.—James Forbes is tenant here ; but he, classing himself as a gentleman, is for his master's share liable. He has a wife and two of a family living with him ; he has also four male servants, four sub-tenants, with their wives and families, and two cottars with families.

COLDSTONE (now Parks of).—The tenant here is William Ross ; he has two servants, a male and a female ; two sub-tenants and four cottars.

MILL OF KINALDIE.—The tenant here is Alexander Esson ; he has two servants, a male and a female ; a miller with his family, and one sub-tenant.

LOANHEAD.—The tenant here is William Reid ;

he has but one servant, to whom, however, he pays no fee; he has one sub-tenant and one cottar, and there resides with him a John Forbes, who has no trade.

WESTER LOANHEAD. — The tenant here is William Thom; he has two sub-tenants and two servants.

NEWTON. — The tenant here is William Reid; he has three sub-tenants and two cottars.

PITLOYNE. — The tenant here is John Fyfe, who has neither wife nor children. He has one female servant, one sub-tenant, and two cottars.

KNOCKSOUL. — The tenant here is John Moir, who has six sub-tenants, several of whom seem to have considerable holdings, as they have families and servants. He has but one cottar.

BELGUWIE—Balgreny. — The tenant here is John Emslie; he has no children come to the age of sixteen years, and no servants. He has no sub-tenants, but six cottars, one of whom is a weaver to trade.

BOGSTOUNE. — The tenant here is William Bre-sich; he has no children come to age, and no servants. He has only one sub-tenant, but five cottars, two of whom are shoemakers and one a blacksmith.

PANTELAND, near Boltingstone. — The tenant here is Peter Michie; he has two servants, two sub-tenants, three cottars, all with families, and two men live about him who have no trade.

This comprises what was long known as the Wester Barony. The population must have been considerable, as is evident from the number of farmers and cottars, all of whom had grass for one or more cows. The sub-tenants had often small holdings, and many of them were accounted farmers, though they farmed under the principal tenant and paid their rents to him.

We now come to the Easter Barony, also belonging to Invercauld.

LOANHEAD, now Millhead (?).—The tenant here is Arthur McConachie, who has one sub-tenant and one servant.

BOGG.—The tenant here is John Gordon, who has three servants and four cottars, two of whom are weavers.

DAACH (Daugh).—The tenant here is Isabel Coutts, who has two male servants, four sub-tenants, three cottars, one of whom is a wright.

John Couper is another tenant, who has a family, a servant, and a sub-tenant.

Alexander Adam is another tenant, who has one sub-tenant.

John Berrie is another tenant, who has a male servant and a sub-tenant.

John Wadie is another tenant, who has a wife, but no children or servants.

The population of the Daugh would thus seem to approach that of a considerable hamlet or

small village. Besides the above mentioned, there were two weavers and one shoemaker.

WINDSEYE.—The tenant here is John Forbes, who has one sub-tenant and two cottars.

MELGUM.—The tenant here is John Farquharson, who has two servants, a male and a female, and one cottar, who is a weaver, and one sub-tenant.

William Gordon is another tenant, with one servant.

Duncan Coutts is a third tenant, with one cottar.

MILL OF MELGUM.—The tenant here is James Forbes, who has three servants, two male and one female, three sub-tenants, and three cottars, one of whom is a miller and another a wright.

The above tenants, sub-tenants, and cottars comprise the settled population on the Invercauld estate as it existed in 1696.

The proprietor was John Farquharson, who was then a young man, residing with his wife at Invercauld—the same who was forced by the Earl of Mar into the Rebellion of 1715, taken prisoner at Preston, conveyed to London, and after eighteen months' imprisonment released, when he returned to his paternal estates, which he largely augmented by purchases in Glenshee, Glenmuick, and Cromar, besides others that came to him by inheritance.

The Earl of Aboyne is the next largest pro-

prietor, with a valuation of £136 6s. 8d. The account of his farms is as follows:—

OLD GRODDIE.—Allan Coutts is one tenant here. He has three servants, but no sub-tenants.

William Gilenders is another tenant here. He has one female servant, two sub-tenants, and three cottars, one of whom is a shoemaker.

NEW GRODDIE.—William Emslie is tenant here. He has two sub-tenants, several grown-up sons living with him, two having families, and two cottars, one without a cow.

The next proprietor in the parish of Coldstone is Mr. William Douglass, his valuation being £100, and his farms as follows:—

WATERERN.—John Morgan is one tenant here, with one sub-tenant.

John Thomson is another tenant, with a son and a daughter grown up, and one male servant and one cottar.

John Wadie is a third tenant, with a sub-tenant and a cottar.

BLACKMILL.—Peter Esson is tenant here. He has a grown-up family living with him, a female servant, a sub-tenant and a cottar, both with families grown up.

The next proprietor in the said parish of Coldstone is the Laird of Skeen, whose valuation is £60. He has but two tenants—John Esson with one sub-tenant, and James Littlejohn with one cottar.

The next proprietor in the parish is Master Alexander Shirrise, but he not dwelling within the parish is not pollable there. His valuation is £26 13s. 4d. He has but one tenant, Lachland Fyfe, who has one female servant, a sub-tenant and a cottar.

The above comprise the holdings in the parish of Coldstone. From the names of the farms it would not be difficult to draw the boundaries of the old parish.

"The valuation of the parish of Loggiemar is £1210." The valuation of the Laird of Drum's land in the said parish is £500; and his farms are:—

BELLA STRAID. — John Cattanach* is tenant here. He has a wife and three grown-up children living in the family, one male servant, two sub-tenants and four cottars.

MAINS OF RIVEN.—John M'Combie† is tenant here. He has six sub-tenants, most of whom have servants and families, and seem to be in

* He was the ancestor of a race that proved themselves somewhat turbulent in the subsequent troubles in the country.

† It was a general belief that these M'Combies, of whom we find several in these lists and in good positions, had come originally from Glenisla—*illa officina gentium* during the Covenanter troubles; but this does not seem probable, as they are too many and too well established in the country for the short space of time which this would allow.

good circumstances. He has but one male servant. There are four cottars, one of whom is a blacksmith.

LEYS.—Peter Reid is tenant here. He has a wife and family, with two male servants and one female, and one sub-tenant.

NETHER RIVEN (1).—Alister M'Combie is tenant of one of the two farms under this name. He has a family, and one male and one female servant. He has five sub-tenants, all of whom have also families and servants, and five cottars.

NETHER RIVEN (2).—George M'Combie is tenant here. He has a family and two servants, a male and a female, four sub-tenants and one cottar.

The above constitute the indwellers on the lands of Drum, within the old parish of Logie. These lands were, not long after, acquired by the Earl of Aberdeen, with much more extensive lands in the parish of Tarland, the Drum family having fallen into pecuniary difficulties on account of the part they took in the civil wars. From this they never recovered their former position, although at the Restoration Charles II. offered Irvine (who was the son-in-law of the second Marquis of Huntly) compensation for his losses by proposing to confer upon him the dignity of Earl of Aberdeen. Irvine, however, declined the honour, on the

ground that his revenues were not then sufficient to support it. It is worthy of remark that the nobleman on whom it was conferred soon after became the possessor of these lands, which in either case would thus have been the property of Earls of Aberdeen.

LOGIE.—The Laird of Logie held lands within the parish to the value of £280. He lived with his lady and five children in the Ha' of Logie, some fragment of which still remains, while some of the fine old ash trees that lined the approaches still continue to be an ornament to the country. He seems to have lived in great style, for he had five men servants and three maid servants, all with good wages. His farms were as follows :—

ORDIE.—Alexander Ross is tenant here. He has a wife and grown-up family. "No servants but one littell boy, whose fee is £4 per annum." He has four sub-tenants, all with young families, and one cottar.

The Ordie has quite changed character since these old days, and is now occupied, greatly to the benefit of the country, by tenants and tradespeople, who in the olden time would have filled the position, though not the tenure, of sub-tenants.

DAVAN.—James Ross is tenant here. He has a wife and young family, and no fewer than seven sub-tenants, with wives and families, and a tradesman (the trade is not stated) with his wife and family.

It is evident that what is now the village of Ordie was then situated at Davan.

MILL OF LOGIE.—James Fyfe is tenant here. He has a wife and grown-up family, two sub-tenants with families, and two cottars, one of them with a family, the other a widow without children.

BROOMHILL.—William Ross is tenant here. He has a wife and family, three sub-tenants with families, a man servant and two cottars.

The above named constitute the tenants on the Logie estate.

The Laird of Blelack's valuation of lands within the parish of Logiemar is £290. He resides on his property with two daughters, a friend, one man servant and two maid servants. His farms are, besides the home farm, which he keeps in his own hands:—

GREYSTONE.—Alexander Smith is tenant here. He is married and has two servants, a male and a female, three sub-tenants and one cottar, all with families.

MAINS OF BLELACK.—William Reid is tenant here. He is married and has a grown-up family living with him. He has also two sub-tenants, two cottars, and a miller, all of whom have families.

MOSTONNE OF BLELACK.—John Robertson is

tenant here. He has a wife and family, with three sub-tenants, who also have families.

CAIRNMOR.—Alexander Webster is tenant here. He is married and has a young family. He has no fewer than five sub-tenants with families, but no cottar and no servant.

The above named were then the tenants on the Blelack property, owned at that time by John Gordon, a cadet of the Abergeldie family.

CORRACHREE.—The valuation of the Laird of Achindor's lands within the parish of Logiemar is £140. He has two tenants, the names of whose farms are not given. The property, however, was long before this time well known as Corrachree.

Patrick Clerk is the first mentioned of these tenants. He is married, has a man servant, two sub-tenants and two cottars, all apparently with families.

George Smith is the other tenant mentioned. He has a wife and family and four sub-tenants, all in the same position in regard to dependence. The Laird of Achindor has a lady and four children in family, with but one male servant pollable. He is not said to be resident at Corrachree, though that is probably implied, at least occasionally.

The above constitute his tenants and their sub-tenants.

THE CONDITION OF THE COUNTRY AT THE
BEGINNING OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

The main features that characterised the condition and conduct of the Lairds of Cromar at this date were extravagance and impecuniosity, or, as it was more frequently phrased, "Highland pride and poverty". The extravagance consisted, not so much in expensive personal habits, as in a vain display of importance. This has been pithily satirised by Bon Gualtier in one of his ballads:—

First came Grant o' Rothiemurcus,
And on his thigh a sword and durk is;
Every man as proud's a Turk is.
And next came Grant o' Tullochgorum,
Wi' a' his pipers ga'an before him;
Proud the mithers were that bore them.
Fee-fa-fum.

This childish parade was not confined to the Grants. Bonnet lairds and others, wadsetters, portioners, and even farmers, tacksmen styling themselves gentlemen might be counted by the dozen in Cromar, who brought ruin upon themselves in the same way. There were some

notable exceptions, wise and sensible men, who made or much increased the fortunes of their families, rising on the ruins of the wild and thriftless.

The industrious classes also had their own troubles and difficulties. The country was overrun with idle *slungs*, *sorners*, and masterful beggars, whose demands for food and lodgings could not be refused but at the risk of incurring greater losses. There were also bands of professional thieves and robbers, habit and repute, infesting the public highways, plundering travellers and sometimes making inroads on peaceful homesteads. *Egyptians*, *gipsies* and *tinklers* were their usual designations, but they were really for the most part broken men and outlaws. Three or four of these banditti became very notorious—the Greybeards, who were really McGregors, and looked to Rob Roy as their chief; a tribe of the name of Young, or Oig; another under the leadership of Alister Mor, who was supposed to be a broken M'Donald or M'Intosh; * and lastly the band led by James M'Pherson, who, if very wild and lawless, was held to be rather a romantic character, and for his misdeeds was tried and hanged at Banff, 1700, going to his death as described in the ballad with such bravado that—

* For an account of this robber see Dr. Allardyce's volume, *Misc. N. S. C.*

He played a spring and danced it round
Beneath the gallows tree.

To put down these disorders the heritors in different districts formed themselves into committees, but to little effect. John Farquharson of Invercauld was representative for Cromar on these committees and a leading spirit amongst them.

The Jacobite rising under the Earl of Mar in the year 1715, so far from being a calamity, was felt to be a relief to the oppressed tenantry. It drew by inclination or compulsion almost the whole of the loose and lawless characters into its ranks; and thus, for the time it lasted, relieved the country of their noxious presence. The lairds did not fare so well as their tenants. By the tenure of their lands they were bound to give military service to their lord superior, who at this time was the Earl of Mar himself. John Gordon, Laird of Blelack, and John Farquharson, Laird of Invercauld, then the largest proprietor in the parish of Logie-Coldstone, were specially unfortunate: the former on account of his relationship with the Skellater family, who were not only vassals, but official servants of the earl; and the latter because the earl had made himself his guest, and lived in the House of Invercauld. The Earl of Aboyne was almost in the same position. Mar also sent a very threatening letter to Blelack if he did not come out and bring his

men with him. He did go out, and so did Invercauld; and Lord Aboyne gave his support, if he did not also give personal service; not much to the advantage of any of them, but least of all to Invercauld, who was taken prisoner and kept long in jail, and only released on humble petition and other influence, as was thought, of a pecuniary character.

The tide of war swept rapidly southward and left the north in comparative peace. It is true that the notorious Rob Roy paid a flying visit to Aberdeenshire to raise such of his clansmen as were located in its Highland glens, specially in Morven and Glengairn. But this, instead of giving trouble, relieved Cromar of their disagreeable vicinity.

Mar's rebellion did not affect injuriously, but rather the reverse, the interests of the industrious and peaceably disposed inhabitants of this district. The lairds who joined in it had to take to hiding for a time, and lost their rents, but that was all that came of the forfeiture of their estates. If they were deep in debt before, they were now much deeper, and little able, even if they had been so disposed, to advance the interests of agriculture. But the two greatest sufferers in Cromar were perhaps the schoolmaster of Coldstone and the Rev. William Idell, minister of the parish of Coull, a native of Upper Deeside. For aiding and abetting the rebellious

cause both were deposed from their offices and never reponed. It is presumed that Mr. Idell, being a Braemar man, was under the influence of the great earl ; while the Coldstone schoolmaster was too near Blelack to escape contagion.

THE REBELLION OF 1745.

It would be beyond the scope of the present work to follow the course of this gallant but hopeless adventure in detail. To get an intelligent view of the connection of this part of the country with the insurrection it is only necessary to remind the reader of its progress and main incidents. The Prince, "Royal Charlie," as he was familiarly styled, set up his standard in the extreme west of Inverness-shire, on the 19th of August, 1745. He was there joined by a number of the West Highland clans, and with them he marched southward through Athole, gathering the midland clans on his way to Perth, Stirling, and Edinburgh, near which he fought and won the battle of Prestonpans on 22nd September.

Up to this date the only contingent his army had received from Aberdeenshire was the troop—mainly of horse—under Old Gordon of Glenbucket, the "Prince Rupert" of the expedition, as he has been called, on account of his daring and dashing exploits. He was a veteran soldier, and

had been out with Mar in the '15, since which time he had sold his estate of Glenbucket—under redemption, as it was called—to the Earl of Fife, who was now in possession. Though Gordon was styled of Glenbucket, the only following he had from that glen consisted of the loose men and masterful beggars who still looked to him as their chief. The body of cavalry he commanded came from Banffshire and belonged to the regiment being raised there by Lord Lewis Gordon, brother of the Duke of Gordon, an early and active partisan of the Prince. This small body, with some vagabonds from Braemar who joined themselves to the M'Intoshes, were the only Aberdeenshire men who had any part in the defeat of "Johnnie Cope" at Prestonpans. But victory gave a great impulse to the spirit of insurrection in and around Cromar.

Before the Prince's army left Edinburgh for the invasion of England on 31st October, 1745, Lord Lewis Gordon, who had been appointed his lieutenant and representative in the north, had assumed the authority of the Duke of Gordon, and was busy collecting men and money for the rebel army. He appointed Francis Farquharson of Monaltrie and James Moir of Stoneywood to be colonels, under whom, in various positions of command, were Charles Gordon of Blelack, young and rash; Gordon of Pronie, from his great stature styled "Muckle

Pronie"; Harry Farquharson of Whitehouse in the Braes; James Farquharson of Balmoral, and some others of less note. These, however, did not go into England, nor did they join the Prince's army till about the 15th January, 1746, when it was laying siege to Stirling Castle. They were all present at the Battle of Falkirk on 17th January, and shared in the victory over General Hawley. They formed with the men of Athole and Angus the second line of battle, and the victory, was almost complete before they were brought into action. Pronie, who had been despatched from the front with orders for their advance, came galloping up, shouting at the top of his voice—and he had a voice that could be heard amid the roar of a battle—"Forward, men! the day's our ain; the day's our ain!" Balmoral was badly wounded, the only casualty recorded among the officers of Monaltrie's regiment, which comprised, as already indicated, the Deeside and Cromar men.

Although this was their first engagement with the English army, it was not the first time they had been in action and obtained a victory. It may well be asked what they had been doing all the previous four months that they had been under arms. The following excerpts from the Stoneywood papers will show the nature of their occupation and throw not a little light on the condition of the country.

Lord Lewis Gordon writes to his lieutenant-colonel to stop the mouths of the Presbyterian ministers thus:—

“To James More of Stoneywood, Esq.:

“Att Aberdeen,

“These

“HUNTLY CASTLE,

“October the 29, 1745.

“DEAR SIR,

“I have one thing more to recommend to you, which is, that I am informed by the Prince's best friends in this country, that his affairs have suffered by the vile and malicious behaviour of the Presbyterian ministers, who abuse his Highness's goodness by irritating the minds of the common people, in telling them a parcel of infamous lies. I therefore require and direct you to issue out an order in my name to all the ministers in your part of the country that if they dare to say a disrespectful word of the Prince or any of his friends that I will punish them as the law directs.

“LEWIS GORDON.”

An attempt to do this was made at this time in the church of Logie-Coldstone. The incident is thus recorded by the eminent antiquary, Dr. Stuart: “The minister of the parish of Logy-in-Mar, on a certain Sunday during the insurrection, was engaged in prayer to God that he would scatter the army of the rebels, and bring their

counsels to nought, when he was interrupted by the Lady of Blelack, who, with an oath, asked him : ' How dare ye say that an' my Charlie wi' them ? ' "

The lady was the mother of the young laird who had just joined the rebels under Stonewood and Monaltrie, and whose language was often not more choice than hers.

On the 25th November, when the Prince's army was at Kendal in England, Lord Lewis writes to Stonewood :—

" DEAR SIR,

" I received, last night late, your letter of date Tuesday night. You may be sure the good news it contained gave me great pleasure. Everything goes on well. I hope the event people wait for, will soon come on. I am glad Blelack and some men are with you ; and we all think here that you have men enough for collecting the cess of the shire. There is not one Highlander come here yet. You will easily be convinced that it is impossible for us to march southward with a body of 600 or 700 men without a certain fund to pay them punctually. I am sorry of the delay of the Highlanders ; and you will be much surprised to hear that it is owing to the Duke of Gordon, who has been so rash as to send advertisements for his people not to obey my

orders. You will see by the enclosed letters that fifty men were to have marched to you, if the information of Blelak's men being with you had not made us alter our measures. I hope in God we shall soon be able to leave this country.

"Your assured friend,

"LEWIS GORDON."

"The good news" he refers to was the capture of Carlisle. What the Highlanders were wanted for was to compel the tenants at the point of the sword to pay the cess money—the rents—to these officers instead of to the proprietors of the lands. The Duke of Gordon was Lord Lewis's elder brother. He felt that he was impoverishing the country, and could not restrain his wild men from plundering even his brother's tenants.

In a letter on the following day dated from the same place he writes:—

"I am to send you fifty or sixty men from this place which I hop will be suficient, with what you already have, to enable you to reduce the outstanding people to reason. I find it is the opinion of every bodie that hase tryed the recruiting in that way, that there is no receding from demands, or giveing the least concessions; and I doubt not but you will find it the best way to threatne a great deall, and even do some strong things to those who are most refractory. I have a letter from Blelack, who hase execute his orders to very

good purpose, notwithstanding what opposition he met with from Invercale, whose people, as well as Lord Bracos in that countrey, he hase oblidge to comply. No pains shall be spared to raise the men, as proposed, from the valued rent: and for that end, as soon as I finish this, am to make out leters to the severall gentlemen in ten or a dozen parishes round to have there different quotas of men here, under the pain of military execution, which I ame resolved stricklie to execute against every deficient heritor.

“ LEWIS GORDON.”

The above is a fair specimen of the mode adopted to raise men and money for the service of the Prince, and of the literary attainments of his lord lieutenant in the north. After this, how silly must appear the talk afterwards indulged in by Jacobite writers regarding the enthusiasm of the people in the cause of the Pretender!

Next day he writes: “The sooner you give your direction to raise the men it will be the better; and you will soon find that all the lenity you can use will be to little purpose, and that some severity will be absolutely necessary”. Fancy a press-gang of 350 men under Stoneywood, Monaltrie, and Blelack scouring the country from Braemar to Midmar, compelling the payment of money and the enlistment of men for the service of the Prince under pain of fire

and sword, and you will have some notion of the enthusiasm with which his cause was supported in this part of the country.

On the 10th December, when the Prince's forces were at Manchester in England on their retreat from Derby back to Scotland, Lord Lewis wrote from Fyvie to Stoneywood a long letter, urging more strongly than ever the adoption of severe measures to bring in the men, and to prepare for a march southward.

A week earlier Stoneywood had received a letter from Blelack, which we reproduce *literatim* :—

“ To Colonell James Moer, Stonniewid

“ At Aberdeen.

“ DEAR SIR,

“ Imedeatly upon receipt of yours, I set owt for Strathbogie, but, to my great disappointment, I foind he [Lord Lewis Gordon] is at Bamph, or some other way through the cuntrie. I have an express in quest of him, who is not returned; but for what I can learn hire, his Lordship will not be soon redie, and, by God, its almos sertain we will be left. Whither Lord Luies has coresponded with Lord John Drumman or not, is what I cannot yet learn; but theres wan thing that I must beg of you, in the most earnest maner, that yowl acquaint me when ye have any return from

Lord John Drumman, as I am perphitly shour ye have not negleckted to write him, and learn when or how he designes to march, for if we are left behind him our case will be lamentable; in short the fear of being left is tormenting me. Let me hear all the news ye can. This bearer promises yow this leter to morows night, and I beg yowl let me hear from yow, per express, with one of my own men upon Thursday, and by that same express I shall let yow know what I dow with Lord Luies. My compliments to Lonmay. And hoping to hear from yow soon, I shall onlie ad, that I most sincearly am, dear Sir,

"Your most sincear humble servant, while I am

"CHARLES GORDON.

"Huntly, 3rd December, 1745.

"For God sake don't fail to write me."

Blelack was in mortal terror of being left behind; and well he might be, for his vagabond soldiers had raised a storm of indignation that might burst upon him in retaliatory action whenever he was weakened by the departure of the main body of his supporters. Then, indeed, he would be in a "lamentable case". He is so excited over this apprehension that he cannot restrain himself from introducing profane swearing even into his letter; and we do not wonder at it, seeing that his mother could not refrain from

that evil habit in church during divine service. She was a daughter of the house of Skellater, a rude and warlike race, and the aunt or grand-aunt of the celebrated "Red Jock," whose adventure with the notorious John Wilkes and subsequent romantic career is, we believe, forming a subject of inquiry by Dr. James Neil, the results of whose painstaking investigation may, it is to be hoped, soon be published, presenting as it does a picture of the life of a soldier of fortune as eventful and strange as any in the region of fiction.

Bleack again writes to Stonewood from Tarrland, where, it would seem, he had taken up his headquarters. We do not trouble the reader with his somewhat oblique orthography:—

"To James Moir of Stonywood, Esq.

"DEAR SIR,

"I have yours just now with Mr Mackie, and would very readily complied with your desire in giving him the party ye desire, if Monaltrie and I had not sent a good many of the men we had upon foot with Mr. McGrigor of Inverenzie to Aberdeen, which will be with you before this comes to your hand; in short any number of men in the country are such a plague that it is a torment to manage them; and we have just now but scrimply as many as serves to raise Lord Aberdeen's men in the country; and

as to the gentleman's project of getting volunteers, I'm afraid his success will not be great, for the method of feeling has put an effectual stop to that ; in short, as ye have an inclination to serve the young man, the most effectual method ye can take is to give him an order to raise some parish or other, and a party to assist him, and in that case, he may get a good many. I'm obliged to you for good news ; God increase them, for everything goes on most dilatorily. I shall acquaint the gentlemen in this country of your cess. Monaltrie wrote the Governor to send out discharges for the cess of several parishes up and down through the country ; so ye may do in this as ye think fit. I shall write you fully in a day or two. And, on great haste, I most sincerely am, dear Sir,

"Your most sincere humble servant, while

"CHARLES GORDON.

"Tarland, 9th December, 1745."

Inverenzie, now Glenfenzie, is a tributary glen of Gairnside. These McGregors were all of the Gilderoy sept, and had got settlements in the Highland glens under Huntly during the civil war. The Earl of Aberdeen had several years before this, some time about 1728, purchased the extensive lands of Drum and Wester Coull in Cromar ; and, as he supported the Government, his tenants were preyed upon by the insurgents.

The same was true of the Invercauld tenantry in the Easter and Wester Baronies.

In his next and last letter to Stoneywood Blelack still expresses his fear of being left behind, and, what is still more to his credit, his detestation of the work in which he was engaged.

"To James Moir of Stoneywood, Esquire,

"At Aberdeen.

"DEAR SIR,

"At my desire the Earl of Aboyne's tenants send in their cess by the bearer. They, and those concerned for them, incline to have a discharge in terms of the enclosed copy; therefore, providing the cess be paid, I think it is but a matter of indifference how the cess is conceived [obtained]; so that I expect you will satisfy them by sending the discharge in terms of the copy. I have sent the list of the cess Lonmay enclosed to Monaltrie up the country, where he is just now, who will certainly act conform to the directions.

"I am just now sending a part of our men off to Aberdeen with a line to Mr. Ross, who will give you an exact list of their numbers, and receive pay for them, as he does for those that were formerly sent. I was indeed heartily vexed that I could not have the honour of waiting of [on] Lord John and Lord Lewis Gordon. I'm

indeed impatient if they have taken any resolutions concerning the time of our marching, which I beg you will let me know as soon as possible; for, although we were to be here till Whitsunday, there would be a good deal to do at the last; only I must, in the most earnest manner, guard against our being left behind, for, by God, I'd rather almost be a hangman, or I drove this trade longer.

"I have minded your commissions as to your plaids and tartan, which shall be sent you in the beginning of the week. Pray, be so kind as continue to give me what news occurs to you; it is most refreshing here. I refer my most humble service to the governor, and I always am, dear Sir,

"Your most obedient humble servant,

"CHARLES GORDON.

"Mill of Gellan, 14th Dec., 1745."

Blelack was kept on at this detestable work of raising the cess at the point of the bayonet for another week only. This cess, or war tax, was a heavy one, £5 stg. for every £100 Scotch of rental; that is, for every £8 6s. 8d. stg. Monaltrie, his superior officer, was at the same work further up Deeside, where, if he got little money, he succeeded in raising a force of 300 men. These were to be sooner engaged in active service than they expected.

To put a stop to these exactions the Laird of McLeod was despatched from Inverness. Lord Lewis Gordon thereupon assembled his forces at Aberdeen. Monaltrie was there with his 300 Farquharsons and Blelack with 100 followers, fifty of whom he had raised in Cromar; the other half had been sent him from Kildrummy and the country around. In a short time Lord Lewis found himself at the head of a little army, 1200 strong. Meanwhile, McLeod, marching from Moray, was kept in complete ignorance of his lordship's movements and strength. In fact, he was led to believe that he was on his march southward to join the Highland army on its return to Scotland. On the other hand, Lord Lewis had the fullest information regarding McLeod's movements and the disposition of his force, and was lying in wait for a favourable opportunity to attack him.

THE SKIRMISH AT INVERURIE

McLeod entered Aberdeenshire at the head of 700 men, and, in his fancied security, had the temerity to divide even this small force into two parties, leaving one, numbering 200, under Colonel Munro at Old Meldrum, and marching at the head of his own clansmen to Inverurie, where he quartered them partly in the village, and partly in the neighbouring farmhouses. On a bright

moonlight night, 23rd December, 1745, Lord Lewis Gordon, having marched his whole force from Aberdeen in the afternoon, fell unexpectedly upon the McLeods, who were only 300 strong, 200 being cantoned in the country around. The fight was unequal, even if they had not been taken by surprise; yet McLeod succeeded in getting his little band together and made a gallant stand for half an hour, and might have continued it longer had not his ammunition failed. Even during that short space of time prodigies of valour, if we are to believe some accounts, were enacted. McLeod himself showed an example of bravery that elicited the respect of his foes; while another, a near kinsman, "setting his back to the gable of a house, kept a number of assailants at bay until a tailor of the place, thinking to gain favour with the stronger party, mounted the roof of the house at the other end, and, crawling onwards, stabbed McLeod from above". It is added that, so far from giving the tailor a reward for this exploit, Lord Lewis ordered him to be shot.

Another story relates a combat between Gordon of Blelack and young McLeod of Assynt, which ended in a similar way. They had known each other in boyhood, and in their frequent contests with foils it was hard to say which was the more expert. Now they had met seemingly in mortal combat; and for a time it appeared doubt-

ful which would fall by the other's hand. There they plied their weapons "by the misty moon-beam's glimmering light," none venturing to interfere, till at last Blelack's henchman, observing his master sore pressed and falling back, stole in behind his antagonist and struck him behind the knee, hoping he would fall backwards, instead of which he stumbled forward and fell on the point of Blelack's sword. Some say the henchman hamstrung McLeod, but that is not believed. When it was found that his wound was mortal, Blelack was deeply moved, and taking him by the hand exclaimed: "Oh, McLeod, McLeod! What would not your mother give to have you beside her to-night!"

It is needless to say that the McLeods were defeated. Among the Gordons there was immense jubilation over their victory. They marched back to Aberdeen in triumph, pipes playing, and banners flying; seized the provost in his own house, dragged him to the *plainstanes*; and, as he still refused to drink King James's health, they poured the liquor down his breast, some say, his throat.

An amusing incident occurred during the scenes of revelry that followed the skirmish at Inverurie. A wandering minstrel, by name Charles Leslie, a natural son of the Laird of Pitcaple, on hearing of the victory, composed a ballad on the occasion, which he sang or lilted

through the streets of Aberdeen, for which performance he was seized by the magistrates and clapt into jail. On the return of the victors from Inverurie, he was of course liberated. He is described as a thin, spare man, with red bushy hair, small red eyes, out-set chin, and a small mouth, so small and puckered as to cause him to be known by the name of "mussel-mou'd Charlie". He was a rabid Jacobite, and travelled the country selling story-books, songs, dying speeches, small almanacs and ballads of his own composition. He was the prototype of "Stachie Laing"—who by the way lies buried, but not commemorated, in the churchyard of Coldstone—or of the still more recent "Johnnie Milne of Livet Glen". Mussel-mou'd Charlie had some consolation for being laid in prison in being a witness of the scene with the provost on the plainstanes. He lived to be over 105 years of age. Here are a few verses of his ballad, which he was no sooner down the prison stair than he again began singing:—

Come, countryman, and sit awhile,
And listen to my sang, man;
I'll gie my aith 'twill gar ye smile
And winna keep ye lang, man.

How godless Whigs wi' their intrigues,
Together did convene, man,
At Inverurie, on the Riggs,
On Thursday's afterneen, man.

McLeod cam' doon frae Inverness,
Wi' a' his clan an' mair, man,
The loyal Gordons to suppress,
An' tirr their hurdies bare, man.

The second chieftain of Monros
Cam' 'cross the Moray Firth, man ;
But ye shall hear, before ye go,
The Gordons marred their mirth, man.

Lord Lewis for the Royal cause,
He fought wi' courage keen, man,
His clan behaved as in the Raids,
On Tuesday aifterneen, man.

Blelack, wi' his trusty blade,
A heart as stout as steel, man,
He lion-like about him laid,
An' gart the rebels reel, man.

Brave Avochie the water wade,
While Crichton pap'd them down, man.
Monaltrie and Stoneywood
Drove them quite through the town, man.

The pickets bold the field did grace,
M'Dermond eek'd the slaughter ;
Had ye been there to see the race,
Ye'd rived yer chafts wi' laughter.

McLeod that nicht got sic a fricht,
Rode aff by break o' day, man,
He tint his bridle in the fecht,
Rode aff wi' ane o' strae, man.

'Mang other things McLeod forgot,
Was found upon the field, man,
A guid claymore and tartan coat,
An's luckydady's shield, man.

Chalmers too, the Logic scholar,
Was there to show his zeal, man,
But frichtened wi' a hempen collar,
His terrier phiz grew pale, man.

There was mair than ten times six
Were brought to Bon-Accord, man,
Which did perplex and greatly vex
The people of the Lord, man.

Sir James Kinloch he marched them on
To Perth, that stands on Tay, man,
Where I shall leave them to ~~ary~~ oh! hon!
The day they crossed the Spey, man.

John Chalmers, here referred to, was a professor or lecturer in King's College and University, not, as some have supposed, the founder and first editor of the *Aberdeen Journal*. The prisoners taken did not number "ten times six"; they were forty-one in all, and the slaughter was not great.

Not much time was wasted at Aberdeen; and very soon the whole force was on its march to join the Prince's army now returned to Scotland. The junction took place at Stirling, while the army was engaged in besieging the castle. The battle of Falkirk was fought on the 17th of January, 1746, a brilliant but fruitless victory for the Highlanders. After the action they returned to prosecute the siege of Stirling Castle, where Monaltrie and Blelack's men had much hard work in the trenches, work which the

other Highlanders did not at all relish. Finding their efforts to take the Castle in vain, they raised the siege and on the 1st of February set out on their retreat to the north. At Crieff the army broke up into two parties, one following the Highland road through Blair Athole. This division was commanded by the Prince in person. The other party under Lord George Murray took the Lowland road to Aberdeen. At Coupar-Angus, where they arrived on the 3rd February, the contingent under Stoneywood and Monaltrie took the short way over the Capel Munth. It is a mistake to suppose, as some writers have done, that the Prince was with this division; and that he was for a time storm-stayed in Clova. He was then with the West Highland division, having only Glenbucket and his company—mostly horsemen—of East Highlanders in his train. On their arrival at Cortachy on the 4th February, the colours were lodged and the men dismissed, to shift for themselves for two days. On the 6th they assembled in Clova; but, the weather being bad, they returned to Cortachy. On the 9th the colours were again up the Glen in Clova. Here they were storm-stayed for two days; but on the 12th they succeeded in crossing the Capel Munth and reaching the Spittal of Glenmuick. From this, on the 13th, they proceeded to Glenmuick Kirk, and thence next day—being Friday—to

Colstone in Cromarr. Here the men were rested for only one day, the colours being conveyed to Tarland. On the 16th February they marched all the way to Reny (Rhynie) and next day to Keith. After this there was a good deal of marching and counter-marching, mostly in Morayshire. The English army under the Duke of Cumberland was now following on their track, and detachments were scouring the country with the view of cutting off straggling parties. Fondly would Blelack's company and Monaltrie's have stayed behind or returned; but they could not with safety do so now. They had not a moment's rest till the fatal 16th of April, 1746. The northward march had indeed been so contrived as to enable most of them to visit their homes and deposit their booty; and in the remoter glens not a few remained safe from the English pickets for several weeks. The following letter clearly shows the condition and discipline of the Highland army after its return to the north. A considerable number of the Farquharsons had reached Braemar by the Cairnwell, while Stonywood and Blelack were still storm-stayed in Glen Clova. They had quartered themselves on the Invercauld tenants, and taken in the mansion of the chief.

"The Laird of Auchriachan to the Laird of Stonnywood.

"Colonel James Moir of Stonnywood, At Aberdeen.

"HONOURED SIR, I was very sorry to have missed you at Braemar, where I expected to have received orders, as I was within 12 miles of my own country (Glenlivet) and wanted to get home and raise more men, particularly my deserters; however my men declined going to Aberdeen, and would by no means condescend to go until they once got home to see their families, and my going without them alone was losing them for good and all, so that I presumed to go along with them in hopes of making some few more, and to keep them together. However I thought it my duty to run you this express, to receive your orders, and to learn where I am to meet and join battalion, which I can do at Strathbogy or Fochabers (if you march to Inverness), as both these places are within sixteen miles of my house.

"I spoke to Mr. Abernethy this morning, calling for this week's pay, but he had it not, so that if you please to remit me a week's pay or so, by this bearer, this shall serve as receipt for the same; for, as I design to raise men, I must have my men close on duty and on parties.

"If you want any Highland plaids or tartans for the men acquaint me, and I will endeavour to provide some. I beg you'll forgive this free-

dome, and believe me to be, honoured Sir, your affectionate humble servant,

"DONALD FARQUHARSON.

"Invercauld, 9th February, 1746."

Donald Farquharson of Auchriachan was a captain in Monaltrie's regiment and an ancestor of the Alargue family. It is easy to see where he was to get the Highland plaids and tartans. The House of Invercauld was well stored with these articles, and Donald had no scruples in making free with them. He supposed that Stoneywood had gone to Aberdeen, and did not know that he was storm-stayed in Clova. As we have seen, he did not go to Aberdeen at all on this occasion.

In the battle of Culloden, which took place on the 16th day of April, 1746, the Farquharsons were not present in full force. Most of the Invereye men had remained at home after reaching their own country from the south; and when called out were too late to take part in the battle, only being in time to meet the fugitives some five or six miles from the fatal field. Those who were in time were joined to the M'Intoshes and were the first to make the attack on the English. Monaltrie—the "Baron Ban" as he was surnamed—with Blelack, Whitehouse and the other Cromar men formed a body by themselves, and took their station on the right centre

of the front line of battle; while Glenbucket and Lord Lewis Gordon formed the rear, and with them was the Prince. There is no need to describe the battle, which only lasted about forty minutes; every one knows how it ended. Black and Stoneywood escaped, Monaltrie was taken prisoner and Whitehouse slain on the field. The havoc among the rank and file was frightful; but no account has survived of the slaughter in the Cromar contingent. As Lord Lewis Gordon and Mr. Moir of Stoneywood, under whom some of them served, composed the rear guard, where the Prince was stationed, their losses were less severe than those of the Farquharsons under Monaltrie, who were in the front line.

HARRY FARQUHARSON of Whitehouse in the Braes of Cromar, who fell in the battle of Culloden, was succeeded by a nephew, Peter Farquharson, whose father was long an eminent physician in Dundee. He sold the ancestral property in the Braes to the Earl of Aboyne, and bought another property in the Parish of Tough, to which he transferred the name of Whitehouse. Bred to the law, he became an advocate in Aberdeen; and, being held in high esteem for his integrity and business capacity, was appointed by his chief, Mr. Farquharson of Invercauld, managing trustee on his extensive estates. In his own property he

was succeeded by his son, the late Andrew Farquharson, who was the last of all known male representatives, not only of his own family of Whitehouse, but also, with perhaps one exception, of the elder house of Monaltrie and the Farquharsons of Invereye. Some of the Culloden hero's relatives emigrated to Jamaica, where they prospered ; but they never forgot the parish of their birth, and left considerable legacies for educational and charitable purposes, the benefits of which are enjoyed to the present day.

JOHN GORDON of Glenbucket escaped from Buchan to Norway, whence, after undergoing much privation and suffering, he made his way to France, where he was the recipient, for a few years, of a small pension from the Prince he had served so bravely. An old man, broken in health through the hardships he had endured, he did not long survive his exile. As a soldier in the Highland army his exploits of daring and bravery had inspired such terror into the English mind that even King George II. was said to have his nightly repose frequently disturbed by the fear of his approach, and to start from his sleep exclaiming, in his vernacular accents: "Ish ta great Glenbookat coming?" Regarding Stoneywood's escape we extract the following from Dr. Stuart's account of it, as given in his preface to the first volume of the *Miscellany of the Spalding Club*.

It is well known how ardently Prince Charles Edward desired an advance on the city of London, and how severely he was affected by the retreat from Derby. The Laird of Stoneywood had advised the march into England, and he was of opinion that it should have been persevered in, contrary to the opinion held by the majority of the Prince's officers. Mr. Moir stood high in the estimation of the Prince; and to the warm interest which the latter showed in his welfare at a subsequent period, he was considerably indebted. Mr. Moir had believed in the popular report of the treachery of Lord George Murray; and, on his regiment being broken at Culloden, it is said, in that moment of vexation and anger, that he met this nobleman and upbraided him as a traitor to the cause. After that fatal conflict, Mr. Moir reached his house of Stoneywood, which had been for some time occupied by a party of English troops. He narrowly escaped detection; and, fleeing into the district of Buchan, was concealed in the house of a crofter of the name of Bartlet, in the parish of Cruden, a retreat which had been prepared for him by the exertions of a faithful retainer. He found it necessary to remove his quarters to the house of John Clark, a cobbler, who led a solitary life in a remote part of the country, and was father to the wife of his late host. Here he contrived a concealment behind his bed, to which he retired

on the approach of any one to the house. With the view of amusing himself, Mr. Moir made himself acquainted with the humble art professed by his host, in which he soon acquired a skill quite surprising to his teacher. It was the 5th of November, 1746, before adequate means of leaving Scotland could be procured by him. On that day, Stoneywood and his brother Charles, who had also been engaged in the rebellion, along with Gordon of Glenbucket, Sir Alexander Bannerman, and two other gentlemen of the Prince's army, embarked on board a small sloop, on the coast of Buchan, which was bound for Norway. Having arrived in that country, he proceeded from thence to Sweden, and having reached Gottenburg he proposed to enter into trade. In the meantime, he preferred a claim of indemnification on the French Government, from having, at his own private expense, raised, clothed, and victualled his regiment, in the Prince's service, until it was ready to join the army. His claim was not disputed, and he received 1500 livres in payment of it, which, however, was a very inadequate remuneration for his outlay. Mr. Moir had assumed the name of Jamieson, which he deemed it advisable to retain, as he was especially excepted from the Act of Indemnity, which was passed at this time. After a short residence at Gottenburg, he was joined there by his wife. He now hesitated whether he would prosecute

his mercantile intentions or engage in the French service, and entered into a correspondence on the subject with James Leslie, secretary to the Prince, who, on the 24th January, 1747, thus writes to Mr. Moir from Paris. "In my humble opinion, if you think you can make a tolerable livelihood in the mercantile way, it will be much surer, then what you can have here ; but, if you come, I am confident the Prince will, as it is just, doe all his endeavour to provide for you, so you are best able to judge yourself what will be most convenient for you to doe ; and, if you think me capable to rendre you any service, depend upon it, none will be more willing. In case you determine [to settle in] the mercantil way, you have here a letter of recommendation for the French ambassador, who I am persuaded will rendre you all the service he can."

The offers of assistance which Mr. Moir received from the French ambassador determined him to adhere to his mercantile projects ; but, while engrossed in arrangements connected with these, he received an order from the King of Sweden to repair to Stockholm. On his arrival there he found that Prince Charles Edward had written to the Swedish Court strongly recommending him. On this occasion Mr. Moir received from the Swedish king the gift of naturalisation, which, by freeing him from certain taxes exigible from foreigners, materially

assisted him in his new pursuits. He was also honoured with a patent of nobility, which, along with other family papers, is yet in the possession of his representative.

Mr. Moir's health began to give way in 1761 ; and in the course of the ensuing year, after many negotiations, he was allowed to return to Scotland, where he again took up his abode at Stoneywood in 1762. He died in 1782, leaving, of a very large family, only two daughters, of whom the elder was married to George Skene of Rubislaw. In his absence his affairs had fallen into considerable disorder ; and some years after his death the inheritance of his fathers was sold. The present representative of this ancient family is James Skene, Esq., of Rubislaw, so well known for his taste and skill in Scottish antiquities and the fine arts. The editor gratefully acknowledges the obligations under which he lies to the son of Mr. Skene, William F. Skene, Esq., W.S., of the Register House, Edinburgh, who communicated to him the valuable collection of letters from which the present selection is printed, and an interesting notice of the family of Moir of Stoneywood, drawn up by his father, from which the particulars regarding Mr. Moir have been gathered.

Along with the family papers there has descended to their present possessor a relic of a nature so interesting that the writer cannot refrain

from adverting to it. It is said that when Charles I. was on the scaffold, the unfortunate monarch placed in the hands of Bishop Juxon, who attended him in his last moments, a Bible, addressing to him at the same time the emphatic injunction, "Remember". Between Bishop Juxon and Patrick Scougal, who was Bishop of Aberdeen from 1664 to 1682, a connection existed, the precise nature of which has not been ascertained. It is certain, however, that Bishop Juxon bequeathed to Bishop Scougal the Bible which he had received in such awfully interesting circumstances from his sovereign. Dr. William Scroggie, for some time minister at Old Aberdeen, but who was elected to fill the See of Argyle in 1666, married the eldest daughter of the Bishop Scougal; and, on the 10th of July, 1683, James Moir of Stoneywood was married to Mary Scroggie, eldest daughter of the Bishop of Argyle. Through this channel, the Bible originally given to Bishop Juxon descended to the Moirs of Stoneywood. A short time before the property was sold, this valuable relic was stolen, along with a gold piece, which had been given by the Lady of Frazer of Muchalls to the ancestor of Mr. Moir who first purchased Stoneywood. It was designed as a talisman for the preservation of the estate, so long as the family should keep possession of the coin, and it had been preserved for many generations in the charter chest at Stoneywood. After being thus abstracted,

it was never again heard of; the thief, who was one of the female servants at Stoneywood, found the Bible to be a less marketable article, as its history was well known in the country. She accordingly came by night to Stoneywood, and deposited the volume at the foot of a large chestnut tree which overshadowed the entrance of the front court of the house, where it was found next morning. It was not returned altogether in the same state as when it had been abstracted. The depredator had offered the volume for sale to a bookseller in Aberdeen, who, although he declined to purchase it, thought proper to abstract the blank leaf on which the monarch's autograph was thus written: "Charles Stuart, an. dom. 1649". This leaf he pasted upon another old Bible, which, it is said, he disposed of to a noble collector of rarities in the north, for a large sum, as a Bible of Charles I. The family relic is magnificently bound in light blue velvet, having the royal arms and initials embroidered in silver gilt on the boards. Having been long used as a register of the births, deaths and marriages of the family, as well as for the daily purposes of domestic devotion, its original lustre has disappeared; but there is no doubt of its authenticity and of its regular descent to its present possessor. A fine portrait of Bishop Juxon was preserved among the family pictures at Stoneywood and is now also in the possession of Mr. Skene.

Of the other Deeside leaders in the rebellion the following short accounts may be given, mostly gleaned from the reports of their trials as published in the *London Journal* of 1746.

FRANCIS FARQUHARSON of Monaltrie, the "Baron Ban," was taken prisoner at Culloden. From Inverness he was sent in a transport vessel to London with several others in the same unhappy position. It was generally remarked of him that he was the handsomest and finest-looking officer in the Prince's army; and, as it was with his regiment that the Cromar and Deeside men were enrolled and served, we venture to give a somewhat fuller account of his trial and romantic escape than has hitherto been published.

On his arrival in London he was first committed to the Tower and afterwards to the Marshalsea Prison. His name appears in a long list of attainted leaders in the rebellion issued by the Government early in May, 1746. In this list also are included the names of Lord George Murray, Lord Lewis Gordon, James Moir of Stoneywood, John Gordon of Glenbucket, and several other gentlemen belonging to the north-eastern shires. In a "list of the rebel officers, prisoners on board the transports arrived at Woolwich," he is styled Colonel Francis Farquharson, and ranks fourth among forty-five taken at the battle of Culloden. A bill of indictment for high treason was lodged in court

against him on 23rd August, where he is described as "Francis Farquharson, Colonel of his own regiment," and along with him a "John Farquharson, Captain in ditto". We have not been able to discover for certain who this Captain John Farquharson was, but think he was the Laird of Allanquoich in Braemar. True bills for high treason were found against them and the other prisoners mentioned in the previous list; and they were remanded till their trial should be fixed.

"On Tuesday, 2nd September, Mr. Justice Foster being seated on the Bench, at St. Margaret's Hill, Mr. Attorney-General moved that the prisoners, against whom Bills of Indictment were found, might be brought to the Bar and arraigned thereon." This was done, when eighteen of them, among whom were Monaltrie and his captain, John Farquharson, pleaded not guilty. "And then the Court adjourned to 13th October." Up to that time almost every available day was occupied by the court sitting at St. Margaret's Hill, Southwark, trying the rebels, who were brought up in batches of ten or a dozen at a time. During these trials some curious items of information were elicited.

There had been a good deal of boasting by the Highlanders of the deeds of arms performed by some of them in the battle. John Mor Macgilvra, major of the Macintoshes, was said to have killed

a dozen men with his broadsword, while some of the halberts were run into his body. When Cumberland heard of it he said he would have given a great sum of money to have saved his life. The boasting was now on the other side. It was mentioned at a sitting of the court on 15th September "that there were three butchers of Nottingham, that had entered the Duke of Kingston's regiment, who killed fourteen rebels each at the battle of Culloden". But the common tone of the poor prisoners' pleading was that they were forced into the rebellion against their will. Many were the charges laid against Gordon of Glenbucket for the extreme measures he adopted in bringing in recruits.

Before their trial came on, several of the prisoners of the less prominent rank had made their escape, sometimes by very ingenious contrivances. Only the leaders and those against whom some special crime was charged seem to have been very strictly guarded. At Carlisle, 127 prisoners were put upon trial, of whom 91 received sentence of death, but they were not all executed. If not so many at York, there were more in London. Before the eventful 13th October it had become evident that the wisest course for the prisoners was to plead guilty, and throw themselves on the King's mercy. The English people had become sated with executions, and were now more disposed

to mercy, especially as the rebellion seemed to be thoroughly stamped out. Accordingly, when put on their trial, both Colonel Francis Farquharson and his captain, John, pleaded guilty; but no symptom of mercy appeared in either judge or jury, and sentence of death was passed upon them. Whether the captain suffered is not known; but this is what we read of Monaltrie: "The rebels who were executed on Kensington Common on 28th November behaved with much unconcern. Hamilton smiled several times before he was put into the sledge, and Wood called for a glass of wine and drank the Pretender's health. Colonel Farquharson, Thomas Watson, and James Lindsay were to have suffered with them; but the two former were reprieved early in the morning, and the last as he was haltering to go into the sledge." Though Monaltrie was reprieved, he was not pardoned, and was sent back to prison to wait the king's further pleasure. It was said that he owed his life and liberty to the intercession of a lady, high in favour at court; but he himself was reticent on the subject, as well as on that of his escape from prison soon after. He did not, however, return to Scotland till long after the Act of Indemnity of 1748 had placed him out of danger of his life; but remained in concealment with a relative in Doncaster, where he was little sought after. His forfeited estate was meanwhile administered by

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the Court of Exchequer, with which his uncle of Invercauld had sufficient interest to have himself appointed judicial factor. The "Baron Ban" did not come again into legal possession till 1784. He died in 1791, universally respected for his quiet life and the improvements he effected in the making of roads and planting of timber.

The above is the generally received account of the "Baron Ban's" escape from prison and concealment in England. It is, however, defective in some respects and inaccurate in others. Through the kindness of Mr. Farquharson of Invercauld the writer has lately had an opportunity of examining a portion of the large collection of valuable historical documents deposited among the family papers in the charter room at Invercauld. In his inspection of these he was fortunate in discovering a memorandum in the Baron's own handwriting minutely detailing the changes in his circumstances from his capture on the field of Culloden to his return to Deeside. From this document it appears that, on being taken prisoner, he was brought to Inverness, where he was detained for one month and thirteen days; and on the 29th May was put on board a transport ship to be conveyed to London, where he arrived 24th June. He was then lodged in Newgate Jail, where he lay under sentence of death till 13th October, when he was reprieved, as above

stated. A condition of his reprieve was that he should leave the kingdom and never return—a condition which, he states, was never sought to be put in execution. He continued a prisoner in Newgate till 30th July, 1747—one year one month and six days. He then received a pardon for the capital offence on condition of his remaining in London under charge of a messenger-at-arms. From that day till 8th August, 1748, he was under charge of this officer, when he was released on parole that he should not go northwards of the river Trent towards Scotland. "From that day to 17th October I was a prisoner at large in London; the which day I came to Berkhamstead (a town in Hertfordshire, twenty-eight miles from London), and remained there 17 years. Liberated from Berkhamstead, I returned to Scotland in the year 1766, having been 19 years 6 months 1 day a prisoner in England." During his residence at Berkhamstead he made the acquaintance of Mr. Eyre of Hessop in Derbyshire, whose daughter he married; and it was only on her decease without issue that he sought and obtained permission to return to Scotland.

CHARLES GORDON of Blelack narrowly escaped apprehension on several occasions. He along with his friend and fellow-officer, Forbes of Brux, skulked about Kildrummy for some time after their flight from Culloden; but,

finding this mode of life uncomfortable as well as dangerous, they sought and obtained concealment in the Manse of Towie, the occupant of which was the Rev. James Lumsden, who was also Laird of Corrachree in Cromar. It is a remarkable fact, that, though the parish ministers were the strongest opponents of the rebellion, and did all in their power to persuade their parishioners to take no part in it, yet when it was quelled none more than they sympathised with the misguided fugitives. As the manses were places above suspicion, they generally became asylums for hunted men. Blelack and Brux were admitted in the silence of the night and assigned quarters in a long unused garret. Mary Grant, the minister's wife, was full of compassion for their hapless lot, and took every precaution to keep their presence in the garret a profound secret, known only to herself and the minister. She carried with her own hands their victuals to them, cautioning them against making any noise, or even moving about in their narrow apartment during the day. A plan was also adopted whereby they might steal out softly when the servants were asleep and take a dander by the river-side ; but " they must be sure to creep back again as gently as possible before any lum in sight was reekan ". For a time all went well. But Mrs. Lumsden had an old maiden sister living at the manse, who was mightily scandalised at

the waste of food that she saw going on and could not account for. There were puddings and hams and many delicacies never tasted that failed to reappear at table, and nobody knew what had become of them. It was in vain to point out that there were two pigs being fed in the sowhouse. "If the swine were being fed on victuals like that, it was a shame to be heard tell o'." The maid-servants also had become suspicious that "a' wisna richt about the manse". One of them "had heard some stichlan ae night, an' she was sure it wisna the rottans". Another had seen "the shadow o' something gaan past the window in the grey o' the mornin' afore she was richt wauken'd". In short the manse was haunted; there was no doubt about it. Mrs. Lumsden favoured this opinion, and advised her servants to let the ghosts alone, as they would do nobody any harm if they were not meddled with. The two fugitives, to keep up the guise, began to play tricks on the girls, tossing bits of turf at them now and again, to their very great terror. There was another watchful, if not jealous, eye, not altogether deceived by appearances. John, the minister's man, was consulted by the maids about what they had seen and heard. Miss Grant, who disbelieved the story about the ghosts, took John into her confidence, and expressed to him her doubts and suspicions. "I'm like you, mem,"

said John, "I dinna ken about sic ghaists gaan about cloddan the quines in the gloamin'." In short it was time for the fugitives to decamp; and they did so, Blelack taking refuge at Mill of Gellan in the parish of Coull, the occupant of which, being a tenant of the Earl of Aboyne, was supposed to be unfriendly to the insurgents. In this respect he was in the same position as the parish ministers. Blelack had occupied his house during the raising of the Cromar men; and, as we have seen, dated one of his letters to Stoneywood from that place. Here he lay concealed for some time.

Prior to the battle of Culloden, Lord George Murray had garrisoned a line of forts to protect the Highlands from the invasion of the English soldiers. The principal of these were Fort Augustus on Loch Ness, Ruthven in Badenoch, and Corgarff Castle in the Highlands of Aberdeenshire. Fort Augustus fell immediately after the battle, and was blown up; Ruthven held out for nearly a month longer; and Corgarff sheltered a body of Highlanders till towards the end of June. Lord Ancrum, to whom Cumberland had committed the charge of pacifying the eastern counties, resolved to displace them; and for this purpose marched with a select body of horse and foot from Aberdeen, taking, as a guide to the party, John McConnach, Blelack's former henchman, whose part in the skirmish at In-

verurie we have already noticed, not altogether with approbation. It is evident that McConnach was now acting the part of a spy on the designs of the English, and with this view had contrived to get himself into considerable favour with them. His object on this occasion was to retard the march of Ancrum's company as much as possible, and to give warning to his friends in the castle to provide for their safety. Marching some distance in front of the party, he would now and then call out: "The enemy, my lord, the enemy!" Lord Ancrum would call a halt and make dispositions to receive an attack. As no enemy appeared, McConnach after much delay would be sent on to reconnoitre. It is to be presumed he would be very cautious and slow, but at length he would return with the report: "Cattle feeding, my lord, cattle feeding". Having practised this dodge as often as he thought judicious, he at last conducted the party to Corgarff Castle, which they found deserted.

Ancrum, however, deemed it advisable to station a party of his own soldiers there to overawe the district and hunt down the fugitives lurking in these wild parts. McConnach was put in charge of the canteen, and kept his ears open to the babbling of the dragoons when in their cups. One night he learned from this source that a party was getting ready to capture Charles Gordon of Blelack, who, they had secret infor-

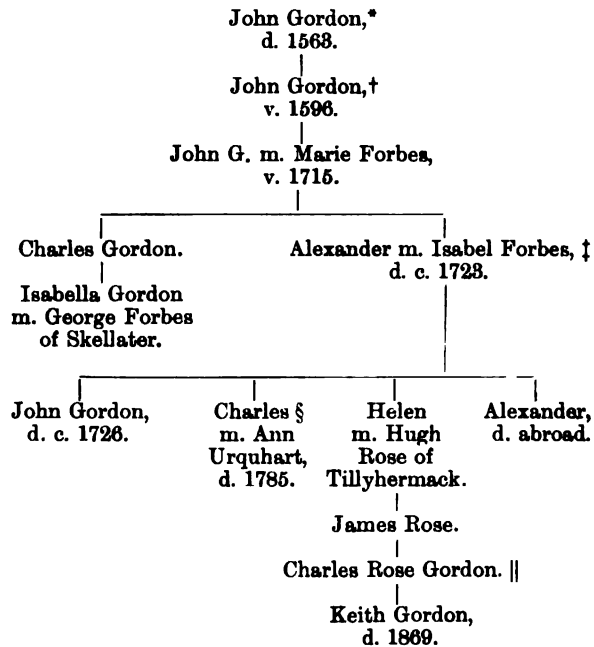
mation, was in hiding at Mill of Gellan, twenty-four miles distant. This plan must be frustrated: Blelack was his dear master, and must be saved at all hazards. He set out therefore as soon as his duties permitted; and, though the night was short, by taking a near cut through the hills, he reached his destination an hour before the horsemen, and got his master conveyed to a place of safety, and himself well on his way back to Corgarff, where he had never been missed. On searching the house and finding the hiding place, the dragoons shook their heads, saying to the tenant: "Aye, aye, Mr. Gordon, somebody has been here before us: the nest is warm, but the bird is flown".

Whither Blelack next fled is not certain; but it was not long till the search for him was so much relaxed that with ordinary caution he might easily have evaded the abated vigilance of the military parties still left in the country. It is generally supposed that he did not leave Scotland, but took refuge with his sister, Helen, then residing with her family in the Parish of Dunottar, near Stonehaven. His mother continued to administer the estate, much to its advantage. She was, as we have seen, possessed of a masculine character, and required it; for she had a difficult part to perform. Being left a widow in 1724 with four of a family, the youngest an infant, it availed her little that her jointure

amounted to half the property. Her eldest son, John, a minor, died in 1726. The second son, Charles, our hero, would have succeeded, but he too was a minor, so that for many years the lady had the management of the whole estate as well as the care of the family. Charles was married and twenty-eight years of age when the rebellion broke out. The part he took in it resulted in the burning of the mansion house and the forfeiture of half the estate. About the same time she lost her youngest son, Alexander, who died unmarried. She was alive in 1753, and it is believed that it was about this time that Charles first showed himself openly about Blelack. Soon after this the building of a new mansion was begun on the site where the present one stands. It was not, however, till 1784 that the forfeited lands were legally restored to Charles, though the administration of them, under trustees appointed by the Court of Exchequer, had been entirely directed by him for about twenty years previously, and few knew but that he was the laird *de jure* as well as *de facto*. He enjoyed the legal possession for only one year. He died in 1785, leaving an only child, Isabel, who became the wife of George Forbes of Skellater, and is believed to have died without issue. His successor was the grandson of his sister, Helen, Charles Rose Gordon, who, "having light hair (that of the Gordons being

dark), was known as 'the Red Laird'. He left a half-witted son, Keith Gordon, who died almost a pauper in 1869, aged 73, at Fairnrae in Towie." Thus ended the line of the old GORDONS OF BLELACK.

GENEALOGICAL TABLE
OF
THE OLD GORDONS OF BLELACK.



* Of the house of Abergeldie, slain at battle of Corrichie.

† Presided at trials of witches; held first charter from Earl of Mar.

‡ Held under renewed charter from Earl of Mar.

§ The rebel laird.

|| "The Red Laird," who sold the property, 1794.

The estate was sold in 1794 by the "Red Laird" to William Gordon—no relative, though bearing the same surname. "He was a native of the district, but had left it in early life for Dundee, where he carried on the trade of a vintner, or innkeeper, so successfully that he bought the estate of Blelack with the profits of his business; and was in consequence styled 'the Vintner Laird'." Such is Mr. Jervise's account. He adds: "Before buying Blelack, he showed his goodness of heart by erecting a monument (table-shaped) at Logie to the memory of an uncle, upon which is this inscription:—

"'Donald Gordon from Ballnevan, died 11 January, 1776, aged 98, in gratitude to whose memory, his nephew, William Gordon, Vintner, Dundee, caused this stone to be erected.

"'Although this tomb no boasted titles keep,
Yet silent here the private virtues sleep;
Truth, candour, justice, altogether ran
And formed a plain, upright, honest man.
No courts he saw, nor mixt in publick rage,
Stranger to all the vices of the age;
No lie nor slander did his tongue defile—
A plain old Britton, free from pride and guile.
Near five score years he numbered ere he died,
And every year he numbered he enjoyed.
This modest stone, which few proud Marbles can,
May truly say, Here lies an honest man;
Ye great, whose heads are laid as low,
Rise higher if ye can.'"

The first appearance of the "Vintner" laird of Blelack in the Parish Church is thus noticed (3rd May, 1794) in the books of the church treasurer: "Mr. Gordon, the new proprietor of the lands of Blelack, being in the church, gave a guinea to the poor, which made that day's collection to be £1 3s. 7d."

Mr. Jervise was not quite correct in saying that it was from his profits as a vintner that he was enabled to purchase the property of Blelack. We have ascertained through the kindness of his great-grandnephew, Mr. J. Forbes, lately of the Commercial Bank of Australia, the following particulars regarding this Laird of Blelack. William Gordon of Dundee and Woodhaven owned the estates of Blelack and Tilliepronie in Aberdeenshire from 1794 till his death in 1802. He obtained a considerable fortune by his marriage with Barbary Stark, heiress of William Syme of Dundee and Woodhaven. The title deeds show that Barbary Stark inherited from W. Syme certain lands in Dundee; also the property of Woodhaven House in the Parish of Newport, Fifeshire; and a burial ground in the churchyard of Kilmany, also in Fifeshire. Woodhaven is on the Fife shore of the Firth of Tay, just opposite Dundee. Mr. Forbes adds: "I have further ascertained that, when Wm. Gordon returned to Aberdeenshire in 1794, he unfortunately invested largely in the Deeside

Roads, and so lost a portion of his wife's fortune. Probably you understand better than I do about these Deeside Roads."

It was just about that time that the Commutation Road Act became law, substituting an annual money payment for the old statute labour provision. The immediate result was that a large sum of money was borrowed by the Road Trustees on the security of the rates imposed by the Act. Much road-making then took place, without much, if any, return for the outlay for many years. This is the only explanation we can offer of the loss referred to.

"Wm. Gordon's elder daughter, Anne, married firstly Peter Lumsdaine, Esq., of Kilmaron in Fifeshire, and was a widow in 1810. She married secondly the Rev. A. Melville, minister of the parish of Logie in the Presbytery of Couper. She had no children, although Mr. Melville left children by a previous marriage.

"Wm. Gordon's younger daughter, Susanna, married the Rev. P. D. Swan, minister of the parish of Ferry-port-on-Craig, who died before 1830. She also left no children.

"None of Wm. Gordon's three children left issue; so that his descendants are now quite extinct."

The tombstones in the churchyard of Kilmany bear out the above statements. That over Mr.

Gordon's own grave is inscribed: "William Gordon of Dundee, Woodhaven and Blelack, died 1802.

"His Wife, Barbary Stark" (date illegible).

Then follow the names of their three children, date of death and age, as above noted.

In his article on the churchyard of Logie Mr. Jervise records that William Gordon of Blelack had a sister who married James Clark, farmer, Carue, by whom she had at least one son and three daughters. The son, who was a preacher, became schoolmaster of Daviot in Aberdeenshire, where he died in 1849 aged forty-nine. He was father of William, who became Vicar of Taunton in Somersetshire.

When everything is taken into consideration, the proprietorship of Blelack lost no prestige by the interpolation in its ranks of William Gordon, the "vintner laird".

It may be convenient here to note the subsequent changes in its ownership to the present time.

William Gordon, son of the last-named laird, soon after his father's death in 1802, sold the estate to John Forbes of Newe, who bequeathed it to his relative, the Rev. George Forbes, D.D., minister of Strathdon, for behoof of his son, now General Sir John Forbes of Inverernan, by whom it was sold in 1862 to Sir Alexander Anderson, then Lord Provost of Aberdeen, who sold it in

1869 to William Coltman, Esq., of Deskry, the present proprietor, who has done much to improve it, in whose hands and those of his descendants it is earnestly hoped it may long remain.

It may be added that the mansion house, built by the Culloden laird, and enlarged by subsequent proprietors, was accidentally destroyed by fire in the autumn of 1868. Since it became the property of Mr. Coltman in the following year it has been rebuilt and remodelled on an extensive scale, till it is now the handsome mansion represented in our frontispiece. It may be added that it contains one of the finest private libraries in the county.

The transference of a property from an ancient race of owners to a new family was very generally attended with some local legend, often wide of the truth, but highly characteristic of the romantic ideas entertained regarding such transactions in the olden times. They usually hinged on some quirk or quibble in the law, or on some unguarded expression in the course of bargain-making. An estate in Cromar is reported to have been acquired in exchange for a grey mare, and another for a tartan plaid; while the bondage of *bun-sucken* or thirlage, due by certain tenants in the Braes and Blackmill to the Mill of the Abbey of Lindores in Dundee, was got rid of by slyly taking ad-

vantage of an opportunity when the miller was unable to perform his part of the stipulation.

The legend relating to the transference of Blelack from the possession of the *red* to that of the *vintner* laird is of a highly romantic character. It happened on one occasion, when returning to Dundee, after a visit to his relatives in the Braes of Cromar, where he had learned that the estate of Blelack was likely soon to be in the market, that the vintner, while riding through an unfrequented part of the country, overtook what appeared to be a poor old woman, toiling along under a load with which she was greatly oppressed; and, being asked if he would give her a lift on her way, as she was very tired and foot-sore, he took pity upon her, spread his plaid for a pillion behind his saddle, and invited her to get up, placing his foot so as to assist her into her seat, which she reached with an agility that not a little surprised him. Once there she with both hands clasped him round the waist, to make her position secure, as the manner of riding double then was, the bundle being attached to the saddle by a cord. Night was now coming on; and, as they were passing through a wood, Gordon felt himself being clasped in so tight and uncomfortable a fashion that he began to suspect that all was not right with the "wife". He determined therefore to be on his guard, and get rid of her as soon

as possible. Before he could do so, however, he observed some men moving in the wood in a manner to excite his suspicions still more. They were armed robbers, and his fellow-traveller was their accomplice. The vintner was equal to the emergency. Shaking himself clear of his companion, who was attempting to get hold of the reins, he put spurs to his horse; and, though the bullets were whistling around him, he succeeded in effecting his escape unhurt, and never drew bridle till he reached his own inn in Dundee.

He now resolved to examine the wallet, which had remained attached to the saddle. To his surprise he found it filled with gold pieces, the loot of the robbers for several months past. Only one conclusion could be drawn from the almost miraculous manner in which it had come into his possession. It had doubtless been a gift sent him by Providence for the purchase of the estate of Blelack.

He lost no time in acting on this impression. Having learned from his friends in the Braes that the estate was to be sold, he immediately set out for the north; and, after consulting with a relative of the name of Emslie as to its value, he proceeded to the mansion house to see the red laird and arrange for its purchase. He found the laird a stiff customer; and, though Providence had in a manner given him the

wherewithal to acquire it, he, on his part, felt it would be contrary to all precedent and the recognised rules of bargain-making, if he were not to use his best endeavour to get it at as cheap a price as possible.

Much anxiety was felt in the Braes as to the issue. Emslie had arranged with his friend for a signal. He was to plant himself on an eminence near Knockdu, where he could see all the way to the House of Blelack, and to be on the watch.

It was by no means an easy matter to strike a bargain in those days, especially in such an important affair as the purchase of an estate. The parties on this occasion were both stiff hands. It could not be concluded without personal inspection of some of the advantages and resources of the property. Poldu was one of them, and thither they bent their steps. The red laird pointed out that here was a perfect mine of wealth. "Why," said he, "you may see the yellow gold shining in the very water. I assure you if I had money to work it up, I would not part with it on any account." "That may be so," replied the vintner, "but all that I can see is a dirty black pool." "Well, come and see the moss. You'll admit that moss is a valuable possession on any estate."

To the moss they went, and from the moss across the march to a point where a good part

of the property was in view. The spot was the rising ground where the eirde house was lately discovered by Mr. George Gauld, to whom the writer is indebted for the above particulars, and who obtained them from persons who firmly believed in their authenticity. One of his informants was the late Meggie Emslie, a shrewd and intelligent old lady, whose memory was filled to overflowing with old lore, which with other ladylike endowments made her conversation much relished by her more intelligent neighbours. She had even been taken notice of by Her Most Gracious Majesty, whom she addressed in language that would not have disgraced a trained courtier. In her latter days she was the recipient of the bounty of the present proprietor of Blelack; and the object of much kindness and attention from his lady and family. If she was, as she herself believed, descended from the stock of the vintner laird and the last representative of his race, it is a singular circumstance that she should have ended her days on the property, after it had passed through the hands of four or five different families, and almost under the shadow of the mansion house.

From this digression let us return to our bargain-makers. There on the very knoll where, thousands of years before, our prehistoric forefathers had transacted business in their own

way, the bargain was struck, and Blelack passed out of the line of the old Gordons. Emslie then received the preconcerted signal, which was that his friend should take out his white pocket-handkerchief and walk three steps northward with it in his hand, returning again to his former position. If he did this only once or twice, it meant that the purchase had not been made; but, if he did it thrice, it meant that he was laird of Blelack. The third time came, and there were bonfires in the Braes that evening.

CORRACHREE.

The earliest notice of Corrachree, as a separate property, is contained in the charter (already noticed) of James IV. (1507) to Alexander, son of Sir John Elphinston of Kildrummy. Sometime during the administration of the Earldom of Mar by the Earl of Huntly, probably about the year 1562, the property was conferred upon George Gordon of Tilphoudie; and afterwards confirmed to his son and successor, Patrick Gordon (1580). His son, Robert Gordon, seems to have been the first resident proprietor, and to have built a mansion house, whereof the date (1611) still remains, apparently in its original position. He had four brothers, John and Alexander by his father's first marriage, and Thomas and Patrick by his second. He

himself was the eldest son of the second marriage. It would appear that one of these brothers—but which, we have not been able to ascertain—became laird of Logie; and that between them there were several agreements as to privileges and servitudes which the tenants of the one were to receive from or give to those of the other. One has survived to the present day, namely, the right of the Corrachree tenants to cut moss fuel on the estate of Logie.

The Gordon families of Corrachree and Logie never recovered from the losses they sustained during the civil wars; and the former, being under heavy money obligations to the Laird of Auchindoir, was ultimately, about 1680, obliged to sell him his property, which afterwards appears in the valuation rolls as: "The Laird of Auchindoir's lands". To the first proprietor of the second family of Lumsden there is in the old churchyard of Cushnie a tombstone thus inscribed: "Within this wall are buried the Ashes of Robert Lumsden of Corrachree, who was married to Agnes Forbes of Skellater. He died April the 20th, 1710. This stone was erected opposite to his grave by his eldest son, James. Solum salus per Christum."

A few years before the above date, probably about 1700, the Laird of Auchindoir had exchanged Corrachree for the lands of Cairndyne in the old parish of Kinerny.

James Lumsden of Corrachree, above named, was minister of Towie, and was succeeded in Corrachree by his son Robert.

This Robert wrote some clever satires, the best known of which are, *Jane of Bogmore*, and *The Humours of the Forest, a Comedy*. Both are a little grotesque, as the manner of the time was, but the incidents are founded on facts ; and the *dramatis personæ* are real characters only slightly disguised. The subject of the former is the courting of "Jane of Bogmore"—Bogmore is now Strathmore, on the way from Tarland to Aboyne. Jane had seven or eight suitors for her hand, of whom the young Laird of Corrachree, her cousin, was one ; and there was no end of rivalry between them—all which is described in quaint scriptural language. Jane, on the advice of her mother, elected to marry Mr. George Forbes, the founder of the Copper Company in Aberdeen, whom the disappointed writer in his spleen calls a "coppersmith" and sometimes a "tinker".

In the other production, *The Humours of the Forest, a Comedy*, an old Deeside minister is burlesqued under the name of "Grumble". It appears that Grumble courted the daughter of a poor clergyman while he was schoolmaster of her father's parish ; but, after he got the living of the "See in the Forest" (the Parish of Birse), Grumble gave his "poor love" the "go bye,"

and married the daughter of another minister who was in affluent circumstances.

Many stories and anecdotes are told of this, the last of the Lumsden lairds of Corrachree. On one occasion, as he was sauntering along the road near Tarland, the Earl of Fife on his journey from Duff House drove up and asked him the way to Braemar. Lumsden, who knew that it was the earl, although the earl did not know him, gave his lordship a minute description of all the turnings and windings of the road, to which the earl replied: "I suppose I cannot go wrong, sir". "Oh yes, you can, my lord, if you be poöitive," replied the laird, which answer became a local proverb—"You can go wrong, if you be poöitive, as the Laird of Corrachree said to Lord Fife". Lumsden then turning on his heels ejaculated, but not so low as not to be heard by his lordship, "That's a real Scotsman: he speirs the wai he kens best," which also became a proverb.

The estate of Corrachree was bought from the executors of this Robert Lumsden by George, ninth Marquis of Huntly—then Earl of Aboyne—about the year 1808. In 1842 it was acquired by the late Lieut.-Colonel John Farquharson, of the Tullochcoy family, and by him bequeathed to his nephew, Colonel John Farquharson, the present esteemed proprietor.

OTHER PROPERTIES.

Of the other properties in the district there is not much to record beyond what has already been stated. Pittentaggart, a small lairdship, or wadset, is held by a family of the name of Reid. Pitellachie, sometimes called the barony of Kinaldie, or the Wester barony, the Easter Daughs and Melgum were purchased by the Invercauld family about 1670-80 from the previous Forbes proprietors. Deskry is believed to have fallen to them by inheritance, but this is doubtful. Easter Migvie, now Hopewell, was also purchased by Invercauld from Dr. Fairbairn in 1779; and a portion of the Moor of Coynach fell to that family by judicial allocation in 1828. For a long time the Invercauld family were the largest proprietors in Logie-Coldstone. Their lands were sold in 1865—Pitellachie and Deskry to William B. Coltman, Esq., the Easter barony to the late John Duguid Milne, and Hopewell to the late Dr. Robertson.

The Braes, as we have seen, was sold to the Earl of Aboyne and by him made over to his son, Lord Strathavon, along with Waterairn and Blackmill. This Lord Strathavon was grandfather to the present Marquis of Huntly, by whose trustees the Braes and Kinnord were sold to Mr. Wilson, shipowner, Hull.

Waterairn holds some place in literature, being

the scene of a short poem by Francis Douglas, author of a work of considerable merit, entitled *History of the East Coast of Scotland*, and for some time editor of the *Aberdeen Journal*. The poem opens with the lines:—

When merry Charles the sceptre swayed,
And none through fear or love obeyed,
There lived a lass in Waterairn, etc.

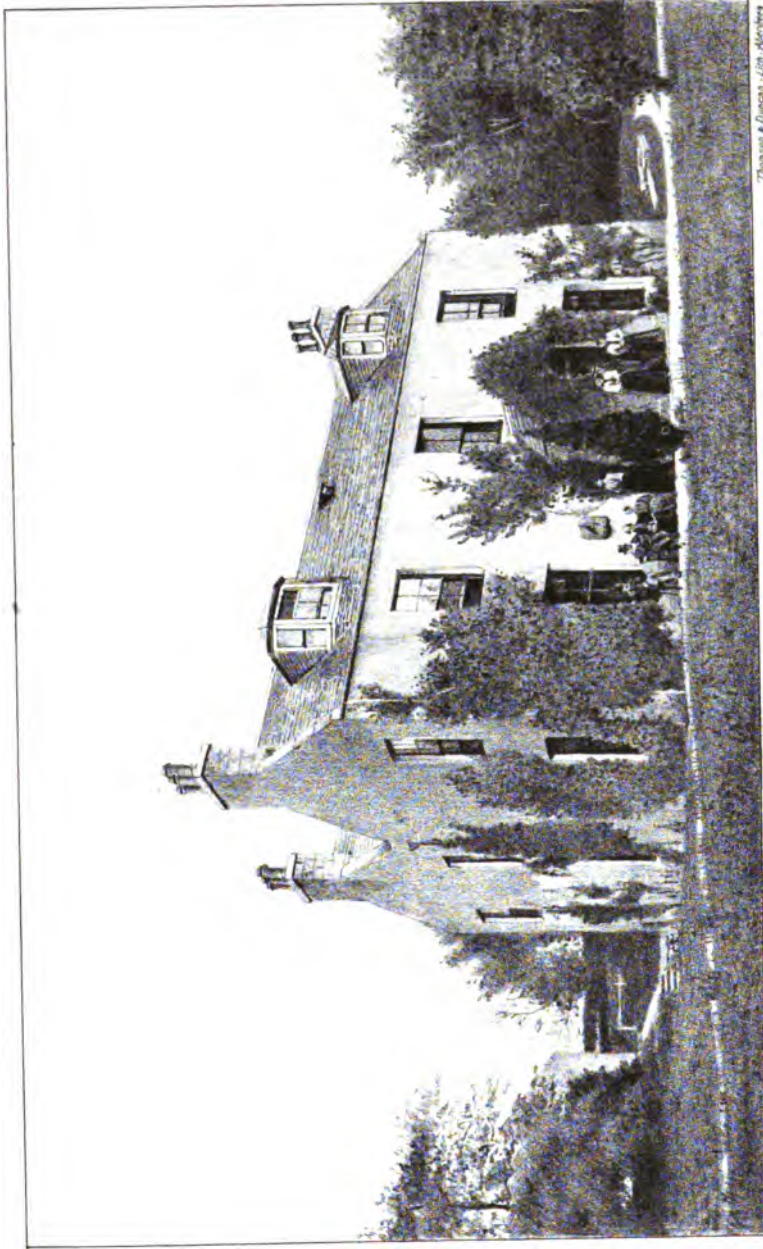
Mr. Douglas's writings are now rare, and much valued. Probably the reason for his selecting Waterairn as the scene of his poem, was that he was descended from that family of Douglasses who were proprietors of that estate for some generations during the latter part of the seventeenth and earlier part of the eighteenth century.

THE OLD STATISTICAL ACCOUNT OF SCOTLAND.

Just about a century, or to be precise, ninety-seven years after the date of the Poll Book, we have a very comprehensive account of all the parishes in Scotland, furnished by the several ministers at the instance of Sir John Sinclair, Bart. This work is styled THE STATISTICAL ACCOUNT OF SCOTLAND. To distinguish it from another similar work published in 1842, it is now known under the name of THE OLD STATISTICAL

ACCOUNT. It occupied four years in its compilation. The description of the parish of Logie-Coldstone was written in the year 1793 by the Rev. Robert Farquharson, minister of the parish, from whose account we make the following extracts:—

“Logie-Coldstone parish is thirty-eight miles distant from Aberdeen. It lies in the upper part of the country called Cromar, a corruption of the word Cruievar, which in the Gaelic signifies ‘the bught of Mar’. The country is surrounded by a large ridge of hills, and is in the form of a bught or fold for holding cattle. The district is about three and a half miles from east to west, and about six from south to north. The soil is various. The interior part of the country is interspersed with a number of small hills, and large barren moors, a great many of which retain the marks of cultivation, by the remains of furrows and fences; but the ground is now so reduced by that barbarous practice of casting muck-peat and turf (that is, the surface) that it produces nothing in general, but a short worthless kind of heath. Near the manse there is a small plantation of fir wood; to the south and east of the church there are five of the same kind. Some farms on the east and west side of the manse, called the Easter and Wester Baronies, and lands of Waterairn, are a fine rich deep loam; and, though very capable of im-



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MANSE-COLDSTONE

provement, are all in a state of nature, except the farms of Kinaldie, Coldstone, and part of that of Loanhead. The first is all enclosed, and some of the fields straightened and dressed; the second was enclosed by the heritor about fourteen years ago, and lies in natural grass, on which he pastures his own cattle in summer and harvest; a part of the third, which lies near the manse, is enclosed and improved. On the east and west sides of the church the ground is light and sandy, a great part of it of a very poor quality; in advancing farther from the church, towards the south-east extremity, the soil is of a fine rich loam. That part of the parish called Deskrie Side, which lies on the north side of the hills, is of a cold wet mossy nature, and very subject to frost and mildews.

“CLIMATE, RIVULETS, SPRINGS, ETC.—The air is accounted salubrious. The frost in winter is often very intense, though the country is not near so stormy as the neighbouring parishes to the north and west of it, such as Towie, Glenbucket and Strathdon. There are three rivulets in the district which fall into the Dee in the parish of Aboyne. They are so small in summer that they require gathered dams to drive the meal mills, of which there are five in the interior part of the district, and one on Deskrie Side, driven by a burn, the one side of which, for two miles, belongs to this parish. It falls into the

Don about a mile below the church of Strathdon. They all abound with fine trout. There is a loch on the south side of this district, called Lochdavon. It is about two and a half miles in circumference; it abounds with pike, some of them of a large size. A good many of them are taken with bait in summer. There is a mineral spring in the parish, a little to the south of the church, called Poldow, which in the Gaelic signifies 'a black pool'; the water of which, some years ago, was much and successfully used for scorbutic and gravelish disorders. It is now much deserted, since the wells of Pananich (which are four miles distant) were discovered. Great crowds of the country people still resort to Poldow, and drink of the water for all disorders.

"ANTIQUITIES, GAME, ETC.—There are Druidical fanes in different parts of the parish. Few parishes in Scotland abound more with a greater variety of game, such as hares, snipe, moor-fowl, partridges, woodcock, a few blackcock, tarmagans and white hares; the two latter are always to be found on the hill of Morven, which in the Gaelic signifies 'a large hill'. It is one of the highest hills in Scotland; it bounds a part of the parish on the west. There are likewise great numbers of wild ducks and geese, which in late seasons destroy a great part of the crop which grows on the low grounds.

"POPULATION.—According to Dr. Webster's re-

port (1755), the number of souls then was 1243. The state of the parish, with respect to population, cannot be traced far back. The writer of this was settled here in 1779; the number of inhabitants since that time is considerably decreased. At that period, all the farms were occupied by tenants and sub-tenants; but at present there are about twenty families quite extirpated, and their possessions in natural grass. In 1780 there were 1300 souls in the parish, at present (1793) there are 1182. The annual average of births since 1780 is twenty-three; of marriages, ten. The people follow, in general, the occupation of husbandry. There are two smiths, one carpenter, two shoemakers and four shopkeepers, who sell small articles for the good of the country. The chief manufacture, till about 1789, was that of knitting stockings by the women, the wool brought by manufacturers from Aberdeen. For three years past, spinning on the two-handed wheel is much introduced and found more profitable. The lint is given out to spin, just in the same way as the wool, by manufacturers from Aberdeen, Brechin, and as far south as Dundee. The whole inhabitants are members of the Established Church, and speak all the dialect of English common in the north of Scotland.

“**AGRICULTURE.**—Oats and common bear are the principal productions of the parish; some

pease and rye are also raised; but the quantity of these kinds of grain is but small, when compared with oats and bear. Potatoes are of late cultivated by every family, whether of farmers or labourers, for their own subsistence; a few turnips are sown, some in drills and some in broadcast; but for want of enclosures, as winter herding is not introduced, they must be pulled before they come to much perfection. The old Scots plough is almost universally used. Some of the most substantial tenants put twelve oxen in the plough, others ten, others eight; the poorer some two horses and two cows, some of them one horse, two cows, and two small oxen. Clover and rye-grass have been cultivated on the farms of Kinaldy, Blelachy, and Lonhead, with great success; but nowhere else, except in gardens, for want of enclosures. Many of the farmers begin to raise flax; and as there are now two lint-mills erected in two of the neighbouring parishes, Towie and Coull, it is thought it will turn out a very profitable crop. There are a good many sheep reared in the parish, the greater part of them of the black-faced kind; they sell from £7 to £13 the score. Black cattle are very much degenerated for want of grass. The farmers send them all, except a few milk cows, to pasture in glens every year about Whitsunday for three months; and since the sheep became numerous, they generally return as poor as when they went

away. In 1780 there were five or six carts in this parish; now, in 1793, there are about thirty. There are at present four heritors in the parish, Lord Aberdeen, Lord Strathavon, James Farquharson of Invercauld, and Charles Gordon of Blelack. The latter is the only residing heritor. The valued rent of the parish is £2783 Scots. Real rent £782 10s., 344 bolls 2 firlots meal, 181 bolls 1 firlot bear. The rents of the principal estates are demanded when due, with certification that if the last farthing is not paid the tenants (very few of them having tacks) must remove at the first term of Whitsunday. To avoid this evil, numbers of them sell meal and bear for ready money, which they have not to deliver, and at that instant buy the same back from the one they sold it to at five shillings and three shillings and sixpence the boll of additional price, payable nine months after. Such as have the victual to deliver, are obliged to thresh out their crop before they have use for the straw: by which means they lose a great deal of it, carrying it out of their barns and building it up in their yards, and it becomes dry and insipid for their cattle. By this uncommon kind of traffic, numbers are reduced to very low circumstances. All the consolation they have is, the one half of them is taught by civil, the other by moral law, that 'whom the Lord loves He chastises'. Lord Strathavon, who got his father Lord

Aboyne's property in this country made over to him two or three years ago, has altered the terms of payment of rents from Martinmas till the 8th or middle of February, and from Whitsunday till the middle of August; by which his tenants have an opportunity of making the best of their victual and cattle, and now pay their rents with much greater ease and advantage than they did formerly. If this plan were adopted by heritors in general in this country, it would be of the greatest consequence to their tenants in general, who depend chiefly on the produce of their crops for the greater part of their rents. Improvements in agriculture will never take place in this parish until leases are granted and encouragement given for houses and enclosing; till that happen the poor farmer will be obliged to adopt the old mode of cultivation, whether right or wrong, though the climate and soil in general are such as would produce good crops of any kind of grain used in the north of Scotland. At present the farm-houses are worth very little, and the mode of living very mean; dwelling-houses, when valued on the removal of a tenant, are appreciated from 16s. to £1 5s., sub-tenants' from 5s. to 10s.

"STIPEND, SCHOOL, POOR.—Logie-Coldstone is a vice-patronage; the Crown and Invercauld present alternately. The annual stipend modified in 1793 is £45 2s. 1d. and 111 bolls of victual,

32 of which are bear, and 2 glebes. The church was rebuilt in 1780, the manse and kitchen in 1783; the office houses are in a ruinous state. There is only one school. The salary is 100 merks; the number of scholars in winter is from fifty to eighty, owing to the school being contiguous to a great part of the parish of Tullich, which lies within Cromar, and that of Migvie, where there is no school but that of Coldstone adjacent to either. The school is kept in the old manse, where the schoolmaster lives; in summer the number of scholars seldom exceeds ten or twelve. The number of poor on the parish roll is usually from twenty-eight to thirty-five. The only fund for their support, which amounted to £35 sterling, was in the hands of a gentleman who failed in circumstances and is since dead. All that was recovered of the money was £6, so that the poor have nothing now but that and the weekly collections to depend upon. Invercauld has been in the regular practice of sending money to divide among them annually since 1783; the sum is usually £11 sterling."

The Rev. Robert Farquharson afterwards wrote to Sir John Sinclair a rather remarkable letter, which Sir John published as an appendix to his report. From several entries in the session books it appears that Mr. Farquharson had considerable skill in medicine and gave his services ungrudgingly as a medical adviser to

his parishioners. It would appear that at one time opium was a drug he largely used, probably because he was experimenting with it upon himself. The letter is as follows:—

“There is a very uncommon and particular circumstance in my case which I shall mention to you (knowing you to be a friend to mankind). I have for a long time been distressed with a disorder in my stomach: about five years ago I was advised to take (when much pained) twenty-five drops of laudanum once a day, and to increase the quantity gradually. My distress was such, that it made me attend regularly to the prescription, as it gave me momentary relief, so that at the end of four years I came on to twelve and often fourteen teaspoonfuls the day; the effects of which, along with my complaint, reduced me to mere skin and bone, and made me as yellow as an orange. I consulted Dr. Cullen when I began to take the laudanum, who did not disapprove of it; but on finding it breaking in fast on my constitution (which was originally good) I applied to Dr. Monro, who gave me for answer, ‘that laudanum was a certain, though slow poison’. This determined me, though in a very reduced state, to diminish the quantity ten teaspoonfuls a day. The sudden transition bore very hard upon me, to such a degree that it was the belief of every one who saw me that I could not live many days. Dr.

Thomas Morison in London (who was my early acquaintance) came to this country in August last, and advised me (if possible) to abandon the laudanum, but to do it gradually; he sent me some doses of the shavings of steel to take three times a day, which I continued to do with such success that I can now with pleasure say that I have not tasted laudanum for four months past, and am become stout and fat."

THE CHURCHYARDS.

CHURCHYARD OF LOGIE.—We have already in the preceding pages frequently referred to this churchyard in connection with the lairds of Blelack. We may, however, add the following observations by Mr. Jervise—*Epitaphs and Inscriptions*.

"The burial ground of Logie lies in the Vale of Cromar, near Loch Kinnord. It is kept in good order, protected by a stone wall, and contains a number of gravestones. Within a walled enclosure, called the *Blelack Howff*, lie (unmarked by any monument) the Gordons, who were lairds of Blelack from an early part of the sixteenth century.

"The last laird was out in the '45, and many anecdotes are told of his hairbreadth escapes from the Royalists, which appear to have been chiefly effected by the personal strength and

daring of his henchman, M'Connach, whom he rewarded by a long and cheap lease of an adjoining farm. The last direct survivor of M'Connach is the Reverend Hugh M'Connach, the ex-schoolmaster of Alford, one of the finest living examples of the old school, whether as to kindness of heart, individuality of character, or honesty of purpose.

"In speaking of the rebel laird of Blelack, it may be added that *the fairies* abode in the Seely Howe, a hollow in the Carne Hillock, upon that property, and, before leaving for the wars of the '45, the laird determined to dislodge them from his lands, and employed for that purpose a reputed magician named John Farquharson, tacksman in Parks. The fairies, however, refused to obey his spell, until he should assign them some other place of abode, which he did by sending them to the Hill of Fare, near Banchory! But, disliking their new quarters very much (the superstitious aver), the fairies pronounced this imprecation upon Gordon:—

"Dool, dool to Blelack,
And dool to Blelack's heir,
For drivin' us frae the Seely Howe,
To the cauld Hill o' Fare!

"The malediction of the fairies against Farquharson was still more eldritch:—

"While corn and girs grows to the air,
John Farquharson and his seed shall thrive nae
mair!

"It is added that Farquharson, whose circumstances went to the bad from the day he dislodged the fairies, left his native country and was never again heard of. Matters also went ill with the Gordons."

There are several other old tombstones besides those already incidentally noticed. One bears the following inscription :—

"Here lies John M'Laggan, who died in Newgrodie, and Margaret Ley, his spouse; also William M'Laggan, their lawful son, who departed this life March 20, 1794, aged 28.

"Unmarked by trophies of the great and vain,
Here sleeps in silent tombs an honest train;
No folly wasted their paternal store,
No guilt, no sordid avarice, made it more;
With honest fame and sober plenty crowned
They liv'd and spread their cheering influence round."

The representative of this family is now Mr. James M'Laggan, agent for the Town and County Bank, Torphins.

Among others of more recent date may be noticed the stones indicating the burying ground of a family of Camerons, originally coming from Glengairn, who settled in Cromar about the beginning of the present century, and from

whom have recently sprung two brothers of considerable note. The younger, Andrew R. Cameron, M.D., was one of the most distinguished students of his time in the Aberdeen University; and, after practising his profession in his native vale of Cromar and afterwards in Banchory, emigrated to New South Wales, where he died 18th October, 1876, leaving most of his means for the establishment of a Medical Scholarship in the Edinburgh University. His brother, Rev. James Cameron, D.D., still survives, now Presbyterian minister at Richmond, New South Wales.

CHURCHYARD OF COLDSTONE.—One of the oldest legible inscriptions is that at the east end of the chancel or aisle on a stone in the centre of which are the Forbes' arms, with initials, R.F. and M.C. This inscription runs round the margin:—

“Here lies Mr. Robert Forbes, minister of Coldstone, who departed out of this lyfe XII of Janvarie 16-5 ” (1675).

According to Lumsden of Tilliekerne, he was a member of the Balfluig family. After the death of two successors (*Scott's Fasti*), the living was held in succession by the ministers whose deaths are recorded in the next five inscriptions.

“This Robert Forbes, who was the son of James Forbes of Cloak—now Glenmillan in Lumphanan—graduated at the University and

King's College, Aberdeen, in 1643, admitted before 17th Oct., 1654, died 12th Jan., 1675, aged about 52".

The next minister of Logie-Coldstone, who was the Rev. John Forbes, A.M., son of Patrick Forbes of Blackhall, and great-grandson of Alexander, sixth Laird of Pitsligo, had his degree from the University and King's College, 9th July, 1668, admitted previous to 6th March, 1677; but, as he was translated to Kincardine O'Neil about 1680, there is no tombstone in memory of him in this churchyard. Neither is there one to his successor, Thomas Alexander, A.M., who was laureated at the University and King's College, Aberdeen, 4th July, 1682; admitted before 1688; died 6th July, 1715, aged fifty-three. A son, Alexander of Jackstoun, was served heir 14th January, 1724; another son, Thomas, was in Inverernan, and a daughter, Margaret, married John Forbes of Inverernan.

The next tombstone to a clergyman of the parish is thus inscribed:—

"In memory of the Rev. John Shepherd, minister of Logie-Coldstone, who, after he spent his life in love to God and mankind, dyed March 1st, 1748, aged 74".

Mr. Shepherd, who was translated from Midmar to Logie-Coldstone, had at least two sons and two daughters. One daughter married Forbes of Bellabeg, and became the mother of

the Rev. George Forbes of Lochel, and of John Forbes, afterwards of Newe. The second daughter, who married Gordon of Crathienaird, was the mother of the late Rev. Mr. Gordon of Aboyne. The sons were both clergymen. One was settled first at Tarland and next at Newbattle, while the other went to Bourtie. A son of the last mentioned became minister of Daviot, and by his wife, a daughter of Dr. Garioch of Gariochsford, he had a pretty large family. One son, Captain John, was some time Chairman of the Board of Directors of the East India Company; and another, Thomas, laird of Kirkville, in Skene, was also an officer in the company's marine service.

The next is inscribed as follows:—

“Here lye the remains of the Rev. Mr. John McInnes, late minister of the Gospel at Logie-Coldstone, who died the 10th October, 1777, in the 62nd year of his ministry, and the 88th of his age.

“Helen Forbes, spouse of the Rev. Mr. John McInnes, minister of Logie-Coldstone, who died on the 26th of Decr., 1774, aged 71 years.”

He was translated from Crathie, being presented by George II. in August and admitted 19th October, 1748. He died, Father of the Church, 21st October, 1777, in his 88th year and 63rd of his ministry. He married, first, Mary, daughter of Mr. James Strachan, minister

of Oyne; secondly, Helen, daughter of Mr. William Forbes, minister of Tarves.

The next clergyman's tombstone bears:—

“Beneath this stone are interred the remains of the Rev. Robert Farquharson of Allargue, minister of Logie-Coldstone, who died 5th January, 1826, in the 78th year of his age and 56th of his ministry, and also those of his spouse, Elizabeth, daughter of the Rev. James Innes, minister of Marnoch, who died the 31st August, 1836, aged 76 ”.

The following is an extract from *Scott's Fasti*, from which work most of the above particulars have been obtained: “Robert Farquharson, A.M., transl. from Kirkmichael, Abernethy, pres. by James Farquharson, Esq., of Invercauld, 13th Dec., 1777, and adm. 3d Nov., 1779. (Delay arose from a competition regarding the patronage, which was claimed also both by the Crown and Charles, Earl of Aboyne, against whom the Court of Session decided 5th February and 17th July of the latter year.) Mr. F. got a new church built in 1780, and died 5th Jan., 1826, in his 78th year and 54th min. He marr., 14th Dec., 1779, Elizabeth, daugh. of Mr. James Innes, min. of Marnoch; she died 14th Nov., 1838,* and had five sons and two daughters. Francis, Major-General in H.E.I.C.S., Charles, George, Robert, thread

* This is the date given in *Scott's Fasti*, but the correct date is that on the tombstone (as above).

manufacturer, Paisley, the Rev. Dr. John, of Rathven, Jane, who marr. Lieut. William Black, adjutant in the Bombay Marine Service, and Mary Ann, James Black, Esq.—Publication—Account of the Parish (Sinclair's St. Acc. IX.)."

The next bears the pathetic inscription:—

"In memory of the Rev. Andrew Tawse, for 7 years minister at Grey Friars' Church of Aberdeen, who, in the 8th year of his ministry in this parish, and 47th of his age, while conducting the solemn service of God's House, on Sunday, 15th Dec., 1833, was called from the faithful discharge of his pastoral duties, and expired in presence of his sorrowing people".

Mr. Tawse, who was sometime tutor in the Whitehouse family, had a taste for painting and music, and it was through the influence of the Farquharsons that he got the kirk of Logie-Coldstone. He was a native of Aberdeen, where his father was a well-to-do flax-dresser.

The next and last of the clergymen's tombstones bears the following:—

"In memory of the Rev. John McHardy, for 32 years minister of this parish. Born 13th Jan., 1785; died 17th Jan., 1866."

Mr. McHardy, descended from an old family long resident in Dalgergie in Strathdon, took his degree of M.A. at the University and King's College, Aberdeen, 28th March, 1803, was licensed by the Presbytery of Caithness 19th June, 1810,

and ordained as assistant to the Rev. Charles McHardy, minister of Crathie, 1st May, 1816. Here he served for many years with much acceptance, both as assistant minister and school-master.

In the month of March, 1834, he was presented to this parish by Mrs. Farquharson of Invercauld, and admitted on the 18th of June following. He is the author of the *New Stat. Acc.* of the parish, 1842. He died unmarried.

Of a large family, of which he was the eldest son, none now remain in the male line. A sister, named Ann, married Alexander Davidson, farmer, Torgalter, Crathie, who has left a family, of whom the Rev. George Davidson, LL.D., now minister of Logie-Coldstone, is the only surviving son.

Until lately, no tombstone recorded the death of any proprietor; but on a rising piece of ground near the gate there has lately been erected within a railing an elegant "Iona Cross" in granite, which is thus inscribed:—

"I lay me down and take my rest.

"Sacred to the memory of JOHN FARQUHARSON of Corrachree, Lieut.-Colonel, H.E.I.C.S. Died 19th July, 1871."

Colonel Farquharson married a sister of Mr. Andrew Farquharson of Whitehouse in Tough, whose decease is also recorded on the same monument:—

"Sacred to the memory of MARGARET FARQUHARSON Wife of Lieut^t Colonel John Farquharson of Corrachree who departed this life on the 1st May 1888 to the great grief of her brother and sister who cordially join in offering this humble tribute of affection".

Mr. Farquharson of Whitehouse has now also passed away and with him the last representative of the Invereye branch of the Farquharsons, as transmitted through the Whitehouse family. Colonel Farquharson of Corrachree was the representative of the same ancient branch through the Tullochcoy family, being a grandson of the last owner of that property. "His mother, Isabella M'Hardy, who belonged to Cabrach, had a nephew, sometime Sheriff-substitute of Lanarkshire, and his eldest daughter is now (1875) the wife of Mr. Merry, M.P. for the Falkirk Burghs."

On a granite obelisk :—

"In Memory of Francis Beattie, A.M., for 49 years Schoolmaster of this parish. Born 1st Jany., 1785, died 24th Septr., 1855. Erected by his grateful and attached pupils who mourn in him a zealous teacher, a wise counsellor, and a constant friend."

Mr. Beattie, who was a native of the Braes, had considerable reputation as a teacher, which drew to the school many pupils from a distance. In his youth he was accounted an athlete; but about the time of his appointment as school-

master he lost the entire use of his nether limbs, and could not in school even move from his desk without assistance, notwithstanding which he never failed to maintain the strictest discipline.

On a granite headstone:—

“To the memory of the Rev. JAMES WATTIE, M.A., parish schoolmaster of Crimond from 1813 to 1856, also tenant of the farm of Bellastraid in this parish—to which he latterly retired—where he had been born, and where he died 31st July, 1872, aged 83 years”.

Mr. Jervise, who knew him well, gives this account of him: “In early life Mr. Wattie became a tutor in the Island of Eig, where he acquired some knowledge of the Gaelic language, and a taste for traditional lore. He afterwards cultivated the latter gift with considerable success; and it is to be regretted that he did not commit his knowledge on these matters to writing.

“His own sayings and doings would form a chapter rich in the curiosities of human character. He was tall and rather spare in person. When he went abroad in his own neighbourhood he generally carried a staff nearly as long as himself—the gift of his early and life-long friend, Sir Alexander Anderson, Lord Provost of Aberdeen—and wore a heavy cloak, which, even in the warmest days of summer, covered no end of flannels and greatcoats. Although learned,

well read, and of a sociable disposition, he is said to have been more frequently seen than welcomed by his friends.

“Mr. Wattie was exceedingly vain of the attentions of the great, and seldom lost an opportunity of thrusting himself into their presence. It is told that, soon after he became a preacher, he was introduced to Lord Aberdeen, afterwards Premier, and that his lordship signified his intention to procure a church for him. Mr. Wattie allowed few chances to pass without reminding his lordship of his promise by letter; but, as writing proved ineffectual, he determined to make personal application. In course of time an opportunity occurred, and upon Lord Aberdeen’s remarking that the church sought after was scarcely suited for Mr. Wattie, the latter, in his own blunt way, is said to have inquired, ‘Then, my lord, what sort of church do you think would suit me?’ to which it is said the earl laconically replied, ‘The Lord only knows!’

“It is pleasing, however, to have to add that, though he did not recognise his gifts as a preacher, his lordship perceived his skill as a farmer, and when Mr. Wattie came to reside as his tenant at Bellastraid he gave him every encouragement, and left nothing undone to make his latter years comfortable.”

Although in this description Mr. Wattie’s foibles may be somewhat overdrawn, he had

many good qualities deserving of commemoration. Notwithstanding his peculiarities he never lost his self-respect or the respect and friendship of his neighbours. He always comported himself with dignity; and his intelligence and worldly wisdom gained him much influence among the class of farmers around him. In the promotion of all local improvements he took a leading part, and was generally selected to represent his parish at the public boards of the district. The Dinnet and Coldstone public road will long bear testimony to his persevering zeal in the cause of improvements. He gave the proprietors whose estates were to be benefited by it no rest until they took the matter up; and he himself went throughout the neighbouring parishes delivering lectures, the proceeds of which were devoted to this road fund. The subjects of some of these lectures were: "The Ballads of Scotland," "Folklore of Aberdeenshire," and "Manners and Customs of its Rural Population Sixty Years Ago," with all of which he was conversant in no ordinary degree. Although he could not be induced to publish these lectures, it is not quite correct to say that he did not commit to writing the substance of several of them. To the present writer's knowledge, he compiled a manuscript volume, closely and neatly written, for the purpose of presenting it to the Marquis of Huntly, for whom he entertained a very high regard. His lordship

was pleased to accept the gift, and is known to place no small value on his possession of it.

With a keen sense of the ludicrous and humorous Mr. Wattie had stored his memory with a multitude of racy anecdotes of eminent persons and queer characters, which he had always at command at social meetings; and which never failed of high appreciation. Most of these have died with him; the more is the pity. He himself was a type of character now rarely to be met with, of which the same observation may be made.

OTHER ANTIQUITIES.

Of the other remains of antiquity in the parish the *New Stat. Acc.* takes note of a pict's house, a little to the north-east of the church, of several cairns, particularly one at Cairnmore of Migvie, and another at Cairnmore of Blelack, both of which have now disappeared, the materials having been used for the erection of enclosures and farm steadings in the neighbourhood. Near the pict's house referred to, Mr. McHardy states that "during the last season (1841) the tenant of Cairnmore of Blelack, while ploughing a field which has long been arable, found the plough striking against a stone which he resolved to remove, and on proceeding to do so discovered that it formed part of a paved road of consider-

able width, the extent of which has not yet been ascertained. In removing part of the stones forming the pavement, numerous pieces of charred wood were found lying beneath them."

The following particulars extracted from Mr. McHardy's account may still be of interest:—

"LANDOWNERS.—The heritors of the parish, in order of their respective valuations, are:—

Mrs. Farquharson of Invercauld, .	£1250	0	0
Earl of Aberdeen,	781	0	0
Marquis of Huntly,	323	0	0
John Forbes, Esq. of Blelack, .	290	0	0
Major Farquharson of Corrachree, .	140	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£2784	0	0

"MODERN BUILDINGS.—The church was rebuilt in 1780, the manse in 1783, and repaired and enlarged in 1826.

"There are three meal-mills, one circular saw-mill, and numerous threshing-mills in the parish.

"POPULATION:—

Amount of population in 1801,	861
1811,	815
1821,	858
1831,	910
1841,	936

"Number of illegitimate births within last three years, ten.

“INDUSTRY.—In few districts in Scotland has agriculture made greater progress than it has done in this parish since the former statistical account of the country was published. At that period, we are told that few turnips were sown, and clover and rye-grass cultivated only on three farms. The other lands in the parish, though capable of improvement, are said to have been ‘in a state of nature’. The farms at that time, so distinguished for enclosing, straightening, and dressing, can no longer boast of superiority of appearance or peculiarity of produce; for skilful and successful competitors have gradually sprung up around them, and stripped them of their honours. There are in the parish about 3000 acres cultivated or occasionally in tillage, and about 900 acres under wood. The average rent of land per acre is £1 5s.; real rental of the parish, £3100.

“ECCLESIASTICAL STATE.—The number of families in the parish is 190, and all belong to the Established Church. Stipend: 128 bolls barley, 128 bolls meal, with £8 6s. 8d. for communion elements. The glebe is about twelve acres in extent, and may be valued at £15. The manse was built in 1783; it was repaired and additions made to it in 1826.

“EDUCATION.—There is but one school in the parish—the parochial. The teacher's salary is £34 4s. 4½d.; probable amount of his school

fees, £25. He receives, as session clerk, £1. 10s. per annum, and shares in the Dick Bequest.

“**POOR.**—Number of poor, eighteen. Average annual amount of contributions for their relief, £34, whereof, from church collections, £24, from alms and legacies, £10.”

We have now reached a point in our historical review of the district well within the recollection of the older inhabitants and fairly within that of those of middle age. The changes that have since taken place have been numerous and important in many respects. Some of the more prominent in regard to proprietorship have already been noticed ; others in regard to tenancy are better known to the present parishioners than to the writer, and need not be recorded here.

The advancement in agriculture has been mostly in the direction of improvements in implements of husbandry. There may be some old men still amongst us who can remember the days of the toothed reaping hook, the wooden plough and the flail, and can therefore trace the onward progress to the reaping machines, the steam plough and the threshing mills of the present day. This is a mechanical age rather than an agricultural ; and, instead of breeding and feeding cattle, we are contriving means to bring our meat supply from the uttermost ends of the earth to our tables as fresh and good as if it

had been reared on our own fields ; and, instead of seeking to improve our breeds of draught, saddle and carriage horses, we have made a considerable step to supersede them altogether.

For the improvement of the human being himself much has been attempted, and it is to be hoped, something accomplished. In the departments of education and sanitation we have seen quite a revolution. Amid all these changes we trust there is one respect in which we have remained unimpaired—in the love of our kindred and love of our country. May the day be distant when the materialism of this cosmopolitan age shall so blunt the sensibilities of the youth reared under the shadow of Morven that wherever they roam their hearts should fail to be warmed by the strains of the youthful Byron, who sang so sweetly :—

When I roved a young Highlander o'er the dark
 heath,
And climb'd thy steep summit, oh Morven of snow !
To gaze on the torrent that thunder'd beneath
Or the mist of the tempest that gather'd below,
Untutor'd by science, a stranger to fear,
And rude as the rocks where my infancy grew,
No feeling, save one, to my bosom was dear ;
Need I say, my sweet Mary, 'twas center'd in you ?

Yet it could not be love, for I knew not the name,—
What passion can dwell in the heart of a child ?
But still I perceive an emotion the same
As I felt, when a boy, on the crag-cover'd wild

One image alone on my bosom impress'd,
I loved my bleak regions, nor panted for new ;
And few were my wants, for my wishes were bless'd ;
And pure were my thoughts, for my soul was with
you.

I rose with the dawn ; with my dog as my guide,
From mountain to mountain I bounded along ;
I breasted the billows of Dee's rushing tide,
And heard at a distance the Highlander's song :
At eve on my heath-covered couch of repose,
No dreams, save of Mary, were spread to my view ;
And warm to the skies my devotions arose,
For the first of my prayers was a blessing on you.

I left my bleak home, and my visions are gone ;
The mountains are vanish'd, my youth is no more ;
As the last of my race, I must wither alone,
And delight but in days I have witness'd before :
Ah ! splendour has raised, but embitter'd my lot ;
More dear were the scenes which my infancy knew :
Though my hopes may have failed, yet they are not
forgot ;
Though cold is my heart, still it lingers with you.

When I see some dark hill point its crest to the sky
I think of the rocks that o'ershadow Culblean ;
When I see the soft blue of a love-speaking eye,
I think of those eyes that endear'd the rude scene ;
When, haply, some light-waving locks I behold,
That faintly resemble my Mary's in hue,
I think on the long flowing ringlets of gold,
The locks that were sacred to beauty, and you.

Yet the day may arrive when the mountains once
more

Shall rise to my sight in their mantles of snow :

But while these soar above me, unchanged as before,

Will Mary be there to receive me?—ah, no !

Adieu, then, ye hills, where my childhood was bred :

Thou sweet flowing Dee, to thy waters, adieu !

No home in the forest shall shelter my head,—

Ah ! Mary, what home could be mine but with you ?

FINIS.

INDEX.

- ABERDEEN**, Earl of, 111, 129.
 Aboyne, Charles, first Earl of, 100.
 Annualrentaris, Book of, 43.
 Assembly, first General, 31.

BALMORAL, 48.
 "Baron Ban," see Farquharson,
 Francis.
 Baronies, Easter and Wester, 42.
 Beattie, Francis, schoolmaster, 196.
 "Black Colonel," 102.
 Blackhal, Gilbert, S.J., 65-73.
 Blackmail, 52, 74.
 Blelack, Gordons of, 162.
 Blelack, Ownership of, 166-167.
 Bonds of Fidelity, 22.
 Book of Annualrentaris, 43.
 Braickley, Baron of, 100.
 Brooks, Sir William, Bart., 74.

CAMERARIUS, 11.
 Cess, or War Tax, 130, 131.
 Charles I., Bible of, 148, 149.
 Charters, Land, 23, 24.
 Churchyards, 187-197.
 "Cleansers," 79, 87.
 Coltman, William, Esq., of Deskry,
 167.
 Compensation Courts, 86-95.
 Corrachree, Ownership of, 172,
 173, 175.
 Corriche, Battle of, 29.
 Covenanter Times, 49-95.
 Cowie, Raid of, 60.
 Cromdale, Battle of, 103.
 Culblean, Battle of, 18.
 Culloden, Battle of, 141.

DAVIDSON, Rev. George, LL.D.,
 195.
 Douglas, Francis, Editor and Poet,
 177.
 Dugar, John, 54.
 Dundee, Viscount, 101.

EDOM O' GORDON, 33, 50.
 Eirle Houses, 6.
 Elphinstone, Sir Alexander, 23.

FAIRIES, 188.
 Falkirk, Battle of, 121.
 Farquharson Family, 41.
 Farquharsons of Whitehouse,
 Family of, 142, 143.
 Farquharson, Donald, of Monaltrie,
 53, 56, 58, 61, 76, 77, 78, 81-83.
 Farquharson, Francis, of Monaltrie,
 120, 141, 150, 151, 153-155.
 Farquharson, James, of White-
 house, 62.
 Farquharson, John, Colonel, of
 Corrachree, 175, 195, 196.
 Farquharson, John, of Invercauld,
 64, 108, 117.
 Farquharson, John, of Invereye,
 74, 77, 97, 98, 100, 102.
 Farquharson, Rev. Robert, 178,
 185-187, 193.
 Feudalism, 20.
 Finla Mor, 41.
 Forbes, Bishop, of Brechin, 11.
 Forbes, "Black Sir Arthur," 34.
 Forbes, Rev. John, 191.
 Forbes, Rev. Robert, 190.
 Frendraucht, Burning of, 51.

GAULD, Mr. George, 171.
 Gilchrist, Earl of Mar, 16.
 Gilderoy, 53, 54.
 Glencairn Rising, 97-100.
 Gordon, Sir Adam, 33, 50.
 Gordon, Rev. Alexander, 46, 47, 94.
 Gordon, Charles, of Blelack, 120,
 124, 126-131, 133, 141, 155-158,
 160.
 Gordon, James, of Balmoral, 48.
 Gordon, John, of Blelack, 117.
 Gordon, John, of Glenbucket, 143,
 150, 152.

- Gordon, Lord Lewis, 58, 120, 122-125, 132, 133, 150.
 Gordon, Robert, of Corrachree, 172.
 Gordon, William, of Blelack, 163-166, 168-172.
 Gordons of Blelack, Table of, 162.
 Gray, Rev. Andrew, 94, 96.
- HILL FORTS, 5.
 Holyrood, Abbot of, 30.
 Hopewell, 176.
 Huntly, first Marquis of, 52, 53.
 Huntly, George, Earl of, 29.
- INVERURIE, Skirmish at, 132-137.
- JACOBITE Rising, Dundee's, 101.
 Jacobite Rising, the '15, 117-119.
 Jacobite Rising, the '45, 119-162.
 Jervise, Mr., Antiquary, 3, 13, 163, 164, 187.
- KANDECHYLE, Burning of, 73.
 Killiecrankie, 103.
 Kinnord, Fortress of, 85.
 Knockargety, 5.
- LAND Charters, 23, 24.
 Lays, 14.
 Lesk, Rev. James, 46.
 Leslie, Charles, Balladmonger, 134-137.
 Logie-Mar, 2.
 Lumsden, Robert, of Corrachree, Satirist, 174, 175.
- McCOMBIES, Origin of, 110.
 McConnach, John, Blelack's Henchman, 134, 158-160.
 McHardy, Rev. John, 194, 200.
 McLunes, Rev. John, 192.
 McLeod, Laird of, 132, 133.
 Manrent, 41.
 Mar, Family of, 27.
 Melgum, 176.
 Moir, James, of Stoneywood, 120, 122, 126, 130, 140, 144-147, 150.
 Money-lending, 44, 47-49.
 Monymusk, Priory of, 15.
- NEIL, Dr. James, 128.
- OGHAM, 13.
 Old Machar, Priory of, 16.
 Old Taxatio, 3, 17.
 Ordie, 112.
- PARISHES, Union of, 42.
 Philiphaugh, 85.
 Pitellachie, 176.
 Pittentaggart, 176.
 Poldu, 170, 180.
 Poll Book, 104-114.
- "RED JOCK," 128.
 Reformation, 27, 33.
 Reid, Rev. James, 46.
 Rob Roy, 118.
 Robertson, Dr. Joseph, 14.
 Ruthvan, 18.
- SCOTT'S *Faeti*, 190, 193.
 Shepherd, Rev. John, 191.
 Spalding, 60, 64, 65, 78, 79, 87.
 Southesk, Earl of, 13.
 St. Nathalan, 9.
 St. Walock, 9.
 Statistical Account, Old, 177-185.
 Statistical Account, New, 195, 200-203.
- Stones, Sculptured, 11.
 Stoneywood Family, 147.
 Stoneywood Papers, 121-131.
 Strachan, John, Parson of Kincardine, 42.
 Strachan, Patrick, of Kinaldie, 78.
 Stratoun, Rev. David, 46.
 Strauchane, Rev. James, 44, 45, 47.
- TAWSE, Rev. Andrew, 194.
 Taxatio, The Old, 3, 17.
 Tillyangus, Battle of, 34.
 Turriff, "Trot of," 58.
- VOLOCUS, 9.
- WADSET, 44.
 Wattie, Rev. James, 197-200.
 Witch Trials, 35-41.

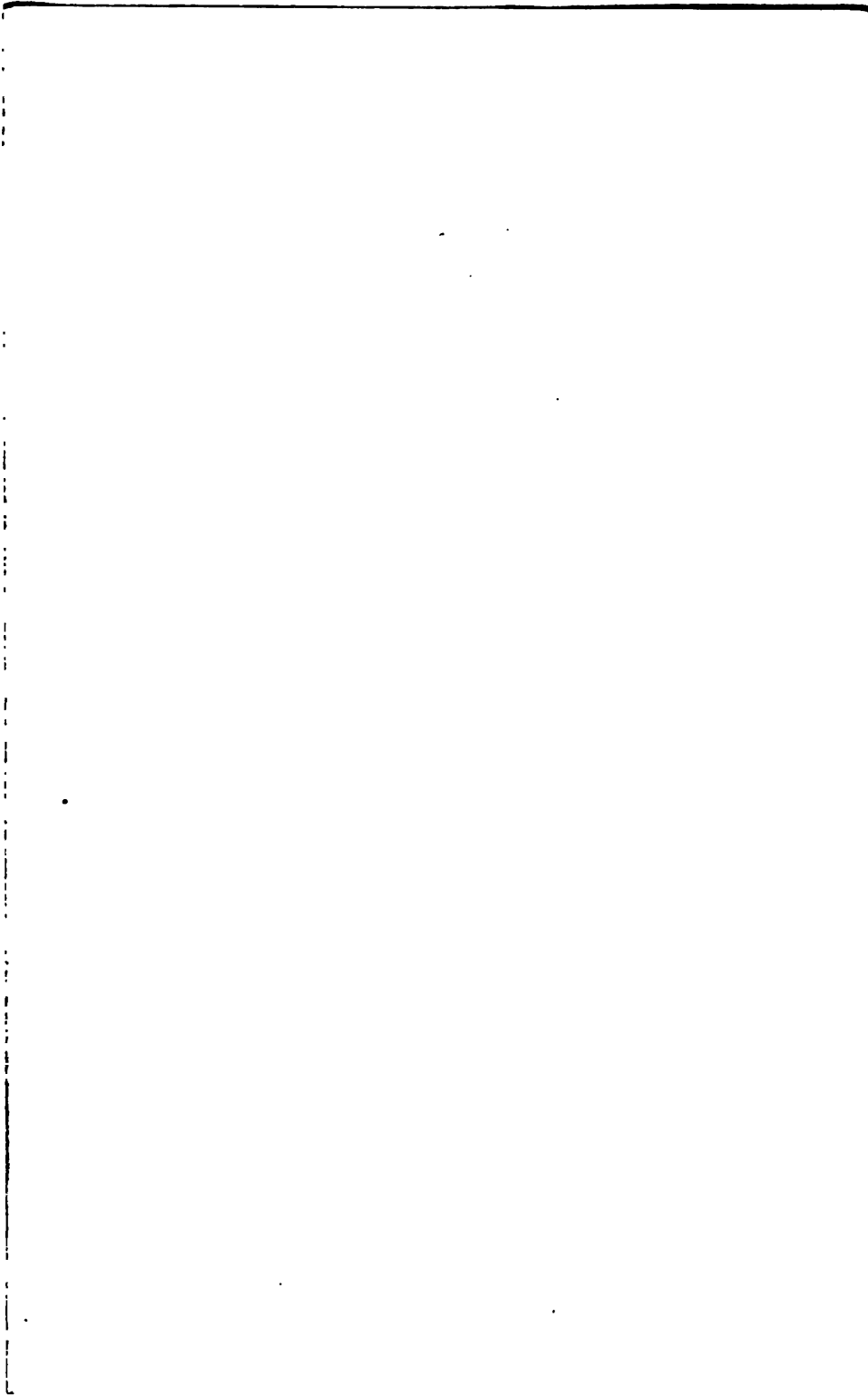
THE MANSE
DINNET

7th May 1896

Dear Mr. Wyllie,

I have now got M. S.
of Bazaar Book almost ready
for the printer. It will come
to about 160 pages of the same
size as "Loch Kinnord". I propose
that the ordinary edition
should run to 250 copies
and that there should be
other 50 printed perhaps on
somewhat thicker paper, so
that if thought advisable
they, or some of them, might
be bound in somewhat
better covers. I do not

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